

# The Journal Register

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## SCHOOLS

# High school graduations: Car parades, virtual awards and modified in-person ceremonies

By Elise Linscott  
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**PALMER/MONSON** – This year's graduation plans in area high schools will be atypical; schools have been closed since March after the coronavirus outbreak, and many are spacing out graduation-related events in order to honor graduates and holding modified ceremonies.

Details will be published as they become available, ahead of each school's graduation.

### Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School

Pathfinder's graduation will be held on its originally scheduled date

– June 5<sup>th</sup> – but in a modified format, according to principal and assistant superintendent Eric Duda and guidance director Brenda Turner.

Graduation will be spaced out over the course of six hours that day, with students arriving in groups of 25 in their specified time slot. Each graduate will be allowed two cars, which will proceed around the building and over to the graduation stage. Faculty, staff members and three police officers will be spaced out on-site to ensure the procession runs smoothly as intended.

"We'll have a stage set up in front of the school, with flowers and a beautiful sign," Duda said.

While students will be arriving in groups of 25, with 50 cars in total between the graduates and their families, only five students will be exiting their cars at a time to graduate.

There will be designated spots for students to stand. A few administrators and School Committee members will be standing toward the back and side of the stage so they can watch while remaining six feet apart, Duda said.

For the first time, school administrators won't be handing students their diplomas – instead, it will be their parents.

"We felt it's obviously a different situation, but we did everything

we could to get them to walk across the stage and have their immediate family present and participating in that moment," Duda said. "We felt having parents hand them the diplomas would be a pretty remarkable moment."

There will also be lawn signs in rows containing each of the 155 graduates' names, photos and departments. They'll be placed where the graduates would normally be sitting as they have in past years.

"We wanted to mimic it as close we could," Turner said. "We know it's a big moment for students and families."

After graduation, each of those

signs will be delivered to the graduates' homes.

Turner and Duda said the school, class officers and seniors decided in April to hold graduation on its original date, and that students didn't want a virtual ceremony.

School administrators then proposed plans for the modified graduation to the town manager and Board of Health, which were approved.

"We started planning everything early with this," Duda said. "I think the students and community really appreciated that."

The school will be setting up a large display with a sign on the front lawn, as well as by the entrance to

the campus where cars will be exiting on graduation day so that students and families can get out of their cars and pose for pictures in their caps and gowns.

After graduation, the school will also be compiling photos and videos to send to each graduate for free; that way, they'll have a unique memento and will be able to see their friends graduate, too, Turner said.

### Palmer High School

Palmer High School's graduation was originally scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Following a School Committee vote, graduation at Palmer

GRADUATION | page 6

## SCHOOLS

# Monson's tennis courts, disc golf course reopen

By Jonah Snowden  
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**MONSON** – Following Governor Charlie Baker's Phase 1 reopening Plan, which allowed some athletic fields and courts to reopen on May 25th, the Monson Parks and Recreation Department decided to open the town's public tennis courts and Mountain Disc Golf Course in Flynt Park.

Director of the Monson Parks and Recreation Department Timothy Pascale said lately, he has seen the Mountainside Disc Golf Course become "even busier than we the lock first began." He also said that he has seen a few people playing in the tennis courts as well.

"(The reopening) provides an opportunity, if done safely, to start to swing back to some kind of normalcy," said Pascale. "I don't know how long it will take to get back to the way we used to think about life, but at least it's the tip of the iceberg as far as something to get people outside."

He also said he hopes that the users of the tennis courts and disc golf courses continue to follow the guidelines the department set by the department.

"It's still a serious condition out there, so we feel fortunate to be able to start to bring back some things, and people following those guidelines will help us keep them open," said Pascale.

The reopening of the public tennis courts and the Mountainside Disc Golf Course comes with guidelines to ensure all guests are safe, and that the courts and course can remain open.

For the Mountainside Disc Golf Course, guidelines include:

- Wearing masks and the frequent use of hand sanitizer is recommended.

- Any potential guests that are not feeling well are recommended to stay home.

- A maximum for four players of group is acceptable, unless more guests are from the same family household.

- Only one group per teebox/hole, and other groups cannot tee off until the group in front has already

MONSON | page 3



## SCHOOLS



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

Palmer High School senior Weivin Wu.

# PHS records messages from each graduating senior

By Jonah Snowden  
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**PALMER** – Despite the cancellation of the school's originally planned senior graduation, staff members and faculty of Palmer High School honored and supported their students the last week of May by recording videos of each senior.

On May 26th and 27th, all graduating PHS seniors went to the front of the high school and

were recorded one by one, stating their name, the year they're graduating, what they would like to do after graduation, and their favorite class. They also thanked their families.

The event was put together by Palmer senior advisor Paula Chapin, who said the planning for it began at the end of April, after a discussion with PHS Principal Susan North. She also said it took around a week to create the concept, a couple of weeks to put the

other pieces of the event together and to organize the students.

"With the support of the staff and faculty at Palmer High and the Police Department, we were able to come together and work it out for the kids," said Chapin.

The graduating class was split in half between the two days for recording. To ensure staff members were following the Board of Health Public gathering

PHS | page 6

## SCHOOLS



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

Treasurer Ashley Opalenik, Class President Saebrá Delaney, Historian Jason Desjardins, Secretary Caitlyn Sigovitch, and Class Representative Emily Latulippe.

# Pathfinder celebrates graduating seniors

By Jonah Snowden  
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**PALMER** – High school graduation season has arrived, and with current restrictions for typical celebrations, staff members and bus drivers of Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School held a parade on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Before the parade officially began at 9 a.m., participating staff met in the school's back parking lot to decorate the buses used to deliver bags full of gifts to the 155 graduating students. Each bag was loaded up with academic and vocational awards, athletic awards, caps and gowns, and more.

Being a regional school, there

were a total of six buses that were loaded with half a dozen teachers on each bus to cover the nine districts the school serves, including Palmer, Warren, New Braintree, Hardwick, Belchertown, Granby, and more. As for the out-of-district towns such as West Springfield and Wilbraham, some staff used their personal vehicles to visit, gift, and congratulate the seniors.

Principal and assistant superintendent Eric Duda, who was present for the parade, said he's happy he and other staff could provide this opportunity.

"As much as this is a huge difference of what we normally would

PATHFINDER | page 5

## FIRE

# Three Rivers Fire Dept. receives donations for new radios

By Elise Linscott  
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**THREE RIVERS** – The Three Rivers Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary group, consisting of the relatives, wives and girlfriends of Three Rivers Fire Department crew members, recently donated \$2,000 to the department for the purchase of new radios.

The donation was enough to buy two of the department's three new radios, including portable equipment for use on emergency incidents and base radios for use at the department's headquarters, according to fire chief Scott Turner.

"The radios we have were purchased around 2001, so they're still functional but getting pretty old and tired," Turner said. "The



new ones have update technology, and we can reprogram them much easier than we could with the older ones."

FIRE | page 2

## COMMUNITY

# Palmer's first Free Little Library open

By Jonah Snowden  
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**PALMER** – After the discovery of free little libraries, which are accessible to anyone, Palmer resident Sheila Belieu thought it would be a great idea to give the town of Palmer one of its own.

After Belieu's daughter and husband, Aaron and Melinda Jablonski, built the library for her birthday on April 29th, when she also received donated books from friends and family, it was officially open. That was also the day of the little library's opening, on April 29th.

Aside from providing books, the little library also has a place where visitors can write in and requests for books they would like. These suggestions help Belieu provide the right selection of books



Courtesy Photo

Palmer's first Free Little Library, located on 1114 Park St.

for the public to take out.

She also works with book donors, which help her fill out the li-

brary once or twice a week.

LIBRARY | page 11



# Salons, barber shops reopen

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – Following Governor Charlie Baker's Phase 1 reopening plan, local hair salons in the town of Monson have reopened and begin serving their clients again.

One of the salons that has resumed business is Blissful Moments, located on 170 Main St. in Monson. Salon owner Karrie Escoto said she is very happy and is grateful she can begin running her business again.

"The best part is I can keep my business," said Escoto. "I am rather new, so it was getting a little scary. I just hope we stay open."

To keep the environment safe, Escoto said she read up on the guidelines put together by the Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering while reopening.

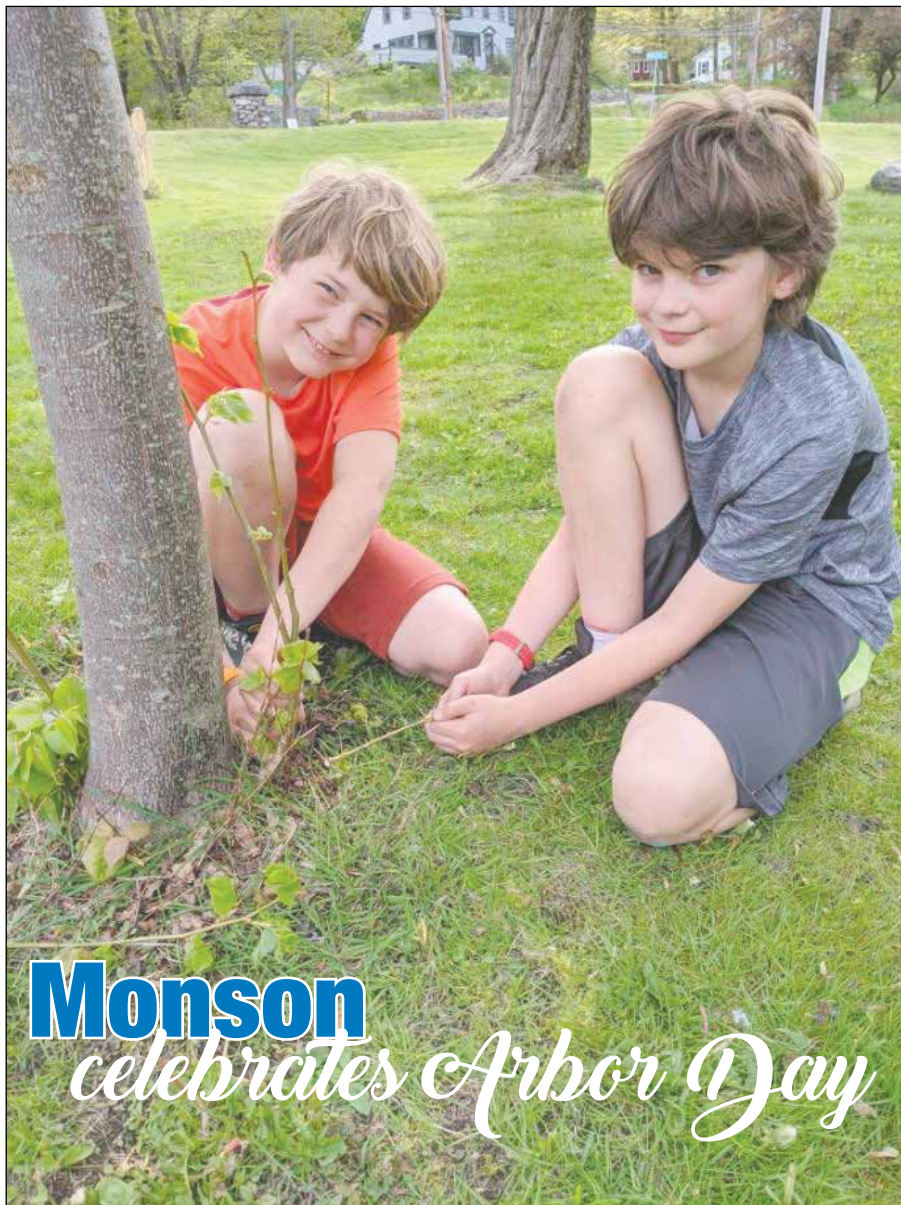
Guidelines include wearing masks, marking where clients can sit, and taking scheduled appointments only. Escoto said she also locks the door between appointments to prevent walks-ins, and she's constantly cleaning everything in the salon.

"I want everyone to know that their health and safety is my number one priority," said Escoto. "I want them to feel comfortable coming in and not afraid."

Going forward, Escoto said she is looking forward to expanding her customer base and getting more involved with the Monson community, providing her clients the perfect one-on-one experience, and continuing to have visitors come to the salon, leaving their troubles at the door and being completely satisfied.

Services include haircuts for men and women, hair coloring, waxing, perms, tanning, and henna tattoos. Tanning lotions, conditioners, shampoos, gels, extensions, and more.

Salon hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to whenever Escoto's last appointment is. To book an appointment, call 413-267-3056 or karriesblissfulmoments@gmail.com. To learn more about Blissful Moments, visit <https://www.blissfulmoments.biz/>.



Submitted photo  
**MONSON – To celebrate Arbor Day in Monson, Tobias and Elliott Greene are pictured pruning the suckers to improve the health of their Linden Tree in their yard. This tree was purchased from the Replanting Monson Tree Committee to replace a tree damaged from the June 1st tornado.**

# Markey, Neal push for rail funding

By Peter Spotts  
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Expanded rail service for Chester and Palmer may find new support in Sen. Edward Markey's (D-Mass.) proposed Brain Train Act to authorize \$5 billion dollars annually for five years to invest in high-performance intercity passenger rail service.

Markey said during a video press conference on May 29th that rail is needed to bring attention to the historically unconnected, or un-reconnected, communities.

He didn't rule out the possibility of adding stops in Chester and Palmer when asked which towns will get rail stops between Boston and Pittsfield.

"We have a plan that would potentially go Boston, Framingham, Worcester, Palmer and Springfield out to Pittsfield. That would be how it would be envisioned right now," Markey said. "I wouldn't rule out other stops if they were deemed to be necessary."

Westfield was also mentioned in the discussion. Ben Heckscher, co-founder of local advocate Trains in the Valley, noted that more stops added would reduce train travel time. He also pointed out that Western Mass. is better connected to Connecticut and New York than Boston.

Markey feels strongly that rail investment is one of the ways to combat climate change and boost economic recovery following COVID-19 by connecting the eastern and western parts of the state and beyond.

"Despite clear economic, environmental, and safety benefits, Congress has insufficiently invested in expanding passenger rail," Markey said. "Developing and restoring passenger rail service, especially in communities that have been under connected, is exactly the kind of recovery program that can help repair the economic damage caused by the coronavirus while correcting long-standing inequities."

"Now is the time to take the pressure off of our highway system," added Congressman Richard Neal. "We can do this with renewable energy in mind. We can make this very green-friendly and also remind people, as we go forward with rail, the rest of the world already does this, and they've embraced it enthusiastically. It's a very efficient way to travel."

Application for the competitive grant funding created by the Brain Train Act would be evaluated based on the levels of estimated ridership, increased on-time performance, reduced trip time, or additional rail service frequency; the anticipated provision of passenger rail service in regions that are historically and persistently unconnected or under-connected; and the anticipated favorable

impact on air or traffic congestion and safety.

It also directs the DOT to give greater preference to projects that encourage direct connection between multiple modes of transportation — train and transit stations, bus terminals, subway stations, ferry ports, and more; improve conventional intercity passenger, freight or commuter rail operations; provide environmental benefits, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and public health, provide positive economic and employment impacts, and provide enhanced transportation options for persons with disabilities.

Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer spoke at the conference as well, noting her city has often felt disconnected from the rest of the state, and is excited about new opportunities expanded rail could have for the city.

"The ability to get on a train and quickly get to Springfield, Worcester or Boston is something many people in our city have dreamed about for a very long time," Tyer said.

Markey confirmed this would not be an allocation of existing funds but with brand-new funds for a new infrastructure bill and new passenger rail projects in Western Massachusetts and across the country. Details such as the construction of new tracks and where stops would be are left to the individual projects to plan.

Markey said any form of hearings on the legislation will be a part of the process, which is dependent on when the next coronavirus relief package is finalized by Congress.

"Once we begin the discussion on an infrastructure bill, then this will be part of that discussion," he said.

Markey was asked during the press conference if the allocation of \$25 billion for public rail transportation during a time when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending people avoid mass transit systems is a wise course of action. Markey said he feels it's important to prepare for a time when society has overcome COVID-19.

"We have to plan for a future that allows for people to get back on trains again. We have to have a vision of what that will look like," he said. "While we're putting a massive amount of effort into finding a vaccine...we need a long-term vision for passenger rail and we have to simultaneously assume that people will be going back on passenger rail because we will find a public health solution to the coronavirus."

## Palmer to resume recycling at Highway Department

PALMER – Recycling will resume on Saturday June 6, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Highway Department, 1015 Bridge Street in Palmer. The Department of Public Works is asking everyone to please be respectful of social distancing. Anyone who has questions can call the DPW office at 413 283 2615.

## Monson Water and Sewer consumer confidence report

MONSON – The Monson Water and Sewer Department enclosed the 2019 consumer confidence report in the mailing of the April bills. Anyone who did not receive a copy can access it on the town's website at [www.monson-ma.gov](http://www.monson-ma.gov), or pick one up at the Water and Sewer Department at 198 Main St., the Town Office Building at 110 Main St., or the Monson Free Library at 2 High St.

alumni and students, will provide legal guidance to help small businesses and nonprofits understand the requirements to receive and, if eligible, access loans through the Federal Government's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) as well as

## MassMutual and WNE School of Law team up to help small businesses and nonprofits through COVID relief coalition

SPRINGFIELD – Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and Western New England University (WNE) School of Law's Center for Social Justice have joined the COVID Relief Coalition of law firms, nonprofits, and government agen-

cies to provide small business owners and nonprofit organizations with pro bono (free) legal support.

Through the Coalition, members of MassMutual's Law Department, assisted by WNE School of Law Small Business Clinic

alumni and students, will provide legal guidance to help small businesses and nonprofits understand the requirements to receive and, if eligible, access loans through the Federal Government's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) as well as

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## Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at [elinscott@turley.com](mailto:elinscott@turley.com), or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

### MONSON | from page 1

The new equipment increases the department's capabilities for communicating on the scene of an incident or if they have to communicate back to the station for additional resources.

"They're much more reliable for us," Turner said.

Currently, the department has 23 crew members, Turner said.

The donation is also helpful since the department operates off of taxes from the community, which are limited, and Turner said the department tries to keep them as low as possible.

"(The donation) definitely helps – it takes a little bit of pressure off the community as far as taxes," Turner said.

The Ladies Auxiliary provides three main functions: fundraising for the department, fundraising and giving back to the community, and helping firefighters at the scene of an incident by providing coffee, water and food, Turner said.

"We get a lot of people that ask us what we do with the money we raise," said Ladies Auxiliary president Bonnie Lafayette, who's been a member of the group since its inception seven years ago and is Turner's girlfriend. "We decided last year we would get a list from the chief and members of the fire department to find out if there's anything specific they need, so we can make a goal for the year."

The \$2,000 donation for the radio was raised over the course of a year, starting with last April's Pasta for a Cause dinner. This year's pasta dinner had to be canceled, but will be rescheduled as soon as is possible, likely sometime this summer or fall.

The money was also raised through a Breakfast with Santa event, along with bottle and can drives.

For next year's goal, the Ladies Auxiliary is aiming to raise money to buy personal protective gear and equipment for the department.

In addition to fundraising for the fire department, the group has also raised money for different causes in town, including donations for memorial bricks at the Bondsville Endelson Playground.

Lafayette said that "the overwhelming support from the community has been wonderful."

"For all of us, it's huge," Lafayette said of the Ladies Auxiliary's seven members and their community service efforts. "We are all either related to or married to members of the fire department, so it's personal for us. As well as just knowing that with budgets there's always something extra they're going to need. If we can help raise a little bit of money for that, that makes us feel good."

### GARDEN | from page 4

left the green.

- Each guest must maintain six feet from other members of the group.

- Avoid touching players discs or bags.

- All discs that land inside the bullseye whiskers should be considered "gimmies," and not putted into the basket.

- No congregating is allowed in the paring or after the rounds.

For Monson's public tennis courts:

- Wearing a mask is mandatory, as is maintaining the six-foot social distancing protocol.

- Users who might have to wait to utilize a court, should wait outside its gates/fence

until the previous users have vacated the facility to ensure proper social distancing and prevent accidental contact of other users' equipment.

No organized games or tournaments are allowed.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the closing of the Golf course and Public Tennis courts to the public until a time and date that is deemed appropriate. The public courts are located on State Street, and the Mountainside Disc Golf Course is located on 25 Park Rd.

Currently, the Parks and Recreation office is closed to the public but can still take emails and phone calls. To have any questions answered, or to learn more about the reopening, call 413-267-4105, or send an email to [mpr@monson-ma.gov](mailto:mpr@monson-ma.gov). Office Hours Monday to Friday is 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### PALMER OFFICE

#### GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT SEEKS PART TIME DESIGNER / PAGINATOR

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# Virtual public hearing Thursday seeks input on Community Development Block Grant

By Jonah Snowden  
[jsnowden@turley.com](mailto:jsnowden@turley.com)

PALMER – On June 4th at 6:00 p.m., the Palmer Community Development Department will be conducting a virtual public hearing to solicit public input on the development and submission of a grant application under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CD-BG-CV) Program.

The town of Palmer, through the Community Development Department (CDC), will be applying for the CD-BG-CV funds on behalf of Palmer, Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Ware.

The activities included in this application include micro-enterprise assistance and social services. The total amount

available for both is \$9,651,876 of the \$19.65 million available to eligible municipalities.

Social services could include food assistance, homelessness assistance designed to help individuals made homeless, or to prevent homelessness from impacts of COVID-19, not including rental or mortgage assistance.

Social services may also include job training to expand the pool of healthcare workers and technicians, among other social services that can address the impacts of COVID-19.

Sarah Szczebak, the Palmer Community Development Department Director, said that as of May 29th, there is no estimate of what each town will receive through the grant, but is planning on having that calculated by the time of the hearing.

"I'm working with each

town and various departments in each town to calculate what their need is, and when we get all of that information, we'll tally it up," said Szczebak. "It's been a very tight timeline for this grant. The state wants to get the money out as quickly as possible."

A Business Impact Survey and Household Impact survey have also been available online to collect information on the effects of the pandemic.

According to the business impact survey, 42% of respondents have had to lay off employees; 67% say they don't anticipate that the layoffs will be permanent, while 50% of respondents have had 31% to 40% decrease in sales due to COVID-19. Nearly 75% of respondents said they need financial assistance to reopen.

In the household impact

survey, 14% of respondents have been laid off, furloughed, or have had their hours reduced; 29% have not had a chance in employment, and 25% are working remotely; 44% of respondents have delayed getting medical care in the past four weeks due to concerns about the pandemic, and food assistance is also needed. The vast majority said they were able to pay last month's rent/mortgage and are confident that they will be able to pay next month's, according to information on the surveys provided by Szczebak on May 29th.

To access the Household Impact Survey, visit the Palmer Community Development Department's Facebook page. As for the Business Impact Survey, visit [rb.gy/bbu8sv](http://rb.gy/bbu8sv).

The meeting will take place on Zoom and will be presented

by Szczebak and Community Development clerk Dakota DesRochers. The meeting will also feature a PowerPoint presentation, as well as the opportunity for attendees to speak. Anyone needing assistance with the platform can email DesRochers at [ddesrochers@townofpalmer.com](mailto:ddesrochers@townofpalmer.com).

All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to participate in this hearing. Questions, comments, or the requests for special accommodations can be sent to Szczebak at 413-283-2614 or [sszczebak@townofpalmer.com](mailto:sszczebak@townofpalmer.com). The deadline for submitting comments is Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 PM. More information on how to access this hearing is available on the PCDD's Facebook page.

## Hampden County Sheriff's Office reports 12 active COVID-19 cases

LUDLOW- Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi announced on June 1st that following COVID-19 testing of everyone in custody at the Main Institution in Ludlow, the infection rate is just 2 percent of the population, with only 12 active cases out of the 614 people tested.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, there have been 592,853 COVID-19 tests performed with 96,965, or 16 percent coming back positive.

"We didn't just get lucky to have such a low percentage of infection among the people in our care. These results came because of a strict, medically advised protocol, and we are very proud but not surprised at the success that has been yielded from our proven infectious disease control system," Sheriff Cocchi said in a statement. "We had a few people refuse to take COVID-19 tests, which complicates things, but that is their right. We will have to treat those cases as presumptive positives and place them in a medical quarantine status until they are medically cleared and can no longer potentially spread the virus if they are indeed infected. But with just ten people refusing to be tested, we have a solid grasp on how small this cluster of positives was and we will soon be back to business as we were."

As a result of the testing and subsequent results, the lockdown procedures enacted on May 25 have been reviewed and modified to begin a phased return to normal operations. Some housing units are already back to normal and the department anticipates all privileges in place before the lockdown will be restored within a couple of days.

Sheriff Cocchi said as part of the department's effort to test all people in custody, the medical staff will next conduct comprehensive testing at the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Facility in Chicopee.

Since the onset of the pandemic, and ahead of CDC guidance, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has been operating under some of the strictest protocols in the Commonwealth. The department made wearing masks mandatory early on, and completely reorganized the way it does business to limit the number of people coming into contact with the people in its custody, according to the HCSO.

New arrivals to the facility who are at much higher risk of being COVID-19 positive are placed in preventative medical isolation units for at least 14 days. These units are not locked down but are managed with medical oversight to best mitigate any spread of the virus.

As of June 1st, the department has had a total of 13 inmates who have tested positive for COVID-19, including 12 active cases. One inmate's case has run its course and the person is now healthy again. There are four staff members currently positive for COVID-19 and 12 staff members who previously tested positive but have since recovered and been medically cleared to return to work.

The department had zero sentenced inmates test positive prior to the 12 current, but had one regional safe-keep, which is a temporary detention for a local police department, arrive positive. That individual was kept in isolation for the entirety of his stay, which ended up being less than six hours total.

The HCSO also had a Section 35 civil commitment client, which is a court-ordered substance use disorder treatment patient, arrive positive for COVID-19. That individual is still getting his addiction-related programming and treatment in a setting that limits the chances of spreading COVID-19 to the other men in the program.



### BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM 2020—2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2020—2021 school year:

Grade K	8	Grade 7	10
Grade 1	6	Grade 8	7
Grade 4	2	Grade 9	10
Grade 6	6	Grade 10	10

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a complete application packet which includes all required documents is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020.

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on June 29, 2020, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second will be conducted on August 13, 2020.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at [www.belchertownps.org](http://www.belchertownps.org) or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

*The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.*

## Red Cross: Urgent need for blood donations as hospital demand increases

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thank all those who come  
to give*

REGION — The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate in the weeks and months ahead by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In recent weeks, hospital demand for blood products has grown by 30% after sharply declining in early April amid this rapidly changing and complex public health crisis. At the same time, blood drives continue to be canceled as many businesses and community organizations remain closed. Donors are needed to make and keep scheduled appointments to help meet the current need.

All those who come to give through May 31 will receive a special Red Cross T-shirt by mail, while

supplies last. And thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give June 1-30 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.\*

"Blood donors have played a vital role in the lives of patients who have needed lifesaving transfusions during this pandemic, and patients continue to depend on donors each and every day," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services. "The Red Cross appreciates the support of those who rolled up a sleeve to give in recent months, but the need doesn't stop. We need the public's help to avoid another blood shortage this summer."

It's important to remember that red blood cells must be transfused within 42 days of donation and platelets within just five days. So, they must constantly be replenished. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross urgently needs the help of donors and blood drive hosts to ensure blood products are readily available for patients.

#### Blood drive safety precautions

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to ensure the health of

BLOOD | page 5

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BBB BUSINESS REVIEW



Viewpoints

Editorial

Celebrating the Class of 2020

By Elise Linscott

This year’s graduation season undoubtedly looks different, as does most everything during these unprecedented times. I can only imagine what seniors have gone through over the last few months, from learning in March that the school year would end online to finding ways to stay motivated and lift each other up as they reach the end of their high school journey.

I’ve heard stories from local principals and members of school communities who know these students’ final months have been shortchanged, and who’ve done their best to organize physically distant events and creative new projects to make sure graduates know how proud their community is of them and bring smiles to their faces as they celebrate the completion of their high school career.

Finishing high school is no small feat. It takes persistence, dedication and focus. Sometimes it takes a little nudge from parents, teachers and friends, too.

In my senior year of high school, I remember feeling nostalgic, looking back on not only the last four years but on everything it took to get to that point, including the friends, knowledge and life skills I picked up along the way that I hoped would propel me forward into my new, adult life.

To the Class of 2020, I’d like to offer a warm congratulations.

No one could have anticipated that the school year would end under these circumstances, but that’s what life’s about – learning to go with the flow, to handle whatever situation we find ourselves in, and to remember that life and its circumstances are ever-evolving, offering us the opportunity to step back and observe each moment, then choose which path we want to take toward the people we want to be.

I’m proud of all of you for reaching this milestone, and I wish all the best as you move forward. I hope you all are able to celebrate in whatever way feels best for you, and know that you have the support of the community behind you every step of the way.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email [dfarmer@turley.com](mailto:dfarmer@turley.com).

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Is increasing access to methadone going to solve the issue?

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced millions of Americans to stay home and isolate for months. The self-isolation has proven mentally challenging for everyone. However, for those battling drug addictions, the ability to fight this new virus coupled with the urge to use drugs could have more longstanding consequences. Treatment providers and state health providers have had to adapt. The goal is to prevent an increase in overdose deaths while also ensuring recovering addicts have access to the support they need.

The addiction community is trying to find new ways to maintain the connection and help those who are vulnerable. Virtual outpatient services have become prominent, and many states have changed how they provide harm reduction with getting drugs such as buprenorphine and methadone to opioid addicts. Overall, the logistics of addiction treatment have become more complicated. Some doctors have taken advantage of prescribing buprenorphine without evaluating patients in person; instead, they are now conducting video chats.

Americans who have traveled to addiction clinics every day to receive a single dose of methadone are now receiving 28-day take-home supplies. In the state of New York, some clinics have even delivered methadone supplies by courier. The heavy-handed regu-

GUEST COLUMNIST

MARCEL GEMME

lation surrounding methadone and other opioid medication is slowly changing amid this pandemic. Many people have been advocating for these changes long before this virus hit. Addiction advocacy groups hope these changes become permanent leading to buprenorphine being prescribed by video chat, supplying weeks of take-home methadone, and allowing addiction doctors to evaluate patients by phone.

Why does the expansion for the treatment of opioid addiction always involve increasing access to methadone or buprenorphine-based drugs? Methadone is a drug that, when misused, will lead to overdose. Yet, it is no secret that within the United States, accessing long-term treatment and effective aftercare is not easy. There are many restrictions with insurance providers, private rehabilitation is not always affordable, and state programs are often always full. Addiction medicine becomes a profitable and lucrative business, and the pandemic has given way to sweeping changes.

Methadone is not a miracle cure. Providing a long-acting synthetic opioid to drug addicts

who abuse opiates will not always prevent overdose or the misuse of other drugs. However, despite the risks and side effects, methadone has been used for over 50 years. Some methadone users remain on the drug for weeks, while others are taking methadone for years. Essentially, they become shackled to the drug. Methadone therapy is touted to prevent withdrawal, and fearful addicts jump at this opportunity to avoid the withdrawal pain and cravings.

There are countless stories of people being on methadone for years with the same goal in mind to keep the withdrawal symptoms at bay. However, what many methadone users fail to realize is their dosage continually increases, making it next to impossible to wean off. There are hundreds of thousands of Americans enrolled in methadone maintenance. Many states are beginning to expand methadone programs. Among the most aggressive states that sought methadone expansion were Indiana, Maryland, and New York, which have sited dozens of new facilities in rural and suburban communities.

It is difficult to know how widespread the opioid epidemic will become once the pandemic subsides. However, addiction advocacy groups are pushing for more methadone and opioid medication amid the pandemic. The result could be an increased number of Americans using methadone

and being kept on a short leash. It becomes a never-ending escalator as the dosage increases to avoid withdrawal symptoms. Eventually, it comes down to a choice—remain on methadone to ease the fear of withdrawal pain and cravings or taper off and detox to become drug-free.

Maintaining sobriety is not easy, and there is always the fear of relapse. Fear has always been a powerful tool to keep people from focusing on something better or different. The pandemic has created an endless amount of fear, yet every day more Americans are standing up and facing it. However, the fear of opioid withdrawal and cravings does not seem to be met as easily as more opioid users turn to methadone or buprenorphine. Perhaps one-day opioid addicts will realize achieving long-term sobriety without the use of methadone or other opioid medications is possible.

About the author - Marcel Gemme has been helping people struggling with substance abuse for over 20 years. He first started as an intake counselor for a drug rehabilitation center in 2000. With drug and alcohol problems constantly on the rise he utilized his website, Addicted.org, and community outreach as a way to spread awareness. His primary focus is threefold: education, prevention and rehabilitation.



Keep a constant supply of bush beans coming

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer. Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than eight weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil, they can be grown with relative ease. Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as “string beans” even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney’s introduction of the stringless refugee wax bean. Today’s modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least, hence the few plants from that early sowing. My sowing on Memorial Day is just starting to poke through the soil. Did you know that white-seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures? Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead. Usually by May 20, the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans. Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest. If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle.

Pat the surface of the soil with your palm to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant. When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican bean beetle. A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key. If squash- ing bugs isn’t for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them. I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren’t nearly as tasty. As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods. I have also enjoyed growing French beans “Haricot Verts” because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid  
Columnist

Geese, goslings and ganders

Mother Goose Nursery rhymes originated in long ago times and in the faraway lands of England, Scotland and the USA. However, every spring and fall, a reminder of those Mother Goose moments appears in a waterfowl sky-writing. Their flock’s V-formation, along with vivid visuals and honking as they fly together, and then land near a marsh, a lake, and on well-mowed, grassy fields.

Once upon a month ago, several Canadian geese families flew, landed and began hovering over their securely nestled nests on the edges of a nearby thriving marsh. And, so with the springtime arrival of a modern-day version of Mr. Gander and Mum Goose to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

With a clear view of her surroundings, our resident Mum Goose found a safe site from predators. She designed a nest from plants and moss with im-peck-able skill. Soft down and feathers lined her shoreline nursery where she laid about eight, off-white eggs. Over the next 30-days, she incubated her eggs nestling and daily turning them. Mr. Gander stood on stretched-neck-watch duty guarding her and her nested eggs closely.

And, yes, as a Geese and Gosling nursery story should tell, it’s a cozy, snuggle-and-settle-in family story. In it we read that Mr. Gander and Mum Goose are life-long mates. Using their parenting skills together, they lead and teach the fledglings how to walk, eat, and “peep-talk” while feeding and grooming the grounds for fresh grass, and easy-to-eat foods.

Quite naturally through the following months, the goslings learn to swim and fly under their parent’s watchful eye. And, by the time a return flight to a warmer climate happens in late fall, they are all able to join in a return V-formation flight to their original homeland.

Yet, not only can we learn lessons from the land-living lifestyle of Mr. Gander, Mum Goose and their traditional family values, but even their annual spring and fall flight patterns show us all timely valuable, team-spirit lessons.

Briefly, all evidence shows that when Geese migrate they follow a leader in a V-pattern. Each consecutive goose flies to the right or left of the leader, flapping their wings on sustaining, upward currents. They trust their leader. And, yet within the power of the flock, a rotation pattern can take place. Also, when one goose becomes unable to fly, several will depart and fly down to earth to be with it. When well again, they can rejoin a flock or make their own flight pattern. Trust is an important part of the flock’s direction and success. And, if you’ve watched geese in their annual spring and fall, V-flight patterns, you’ve no doubt heard the honking joy of their journeys together.

Perhaps the older Ganders and Mum Geese are following the young ones in their first long-distance flight and cheering them on? Maybe a few young ones fly to earth to accompany, help and be with Grandpa Gander and Grand Mum Goose when their wings get tired? I can imagine that happening as one of the grandest nursery stories on God’s good earth along with adventures and observations of some of nature’s most beautiful creatures.

And, that’s how the Geese, the goslings, (and not forgetting the gander “of examining things closely”) lived happily in ever-after land.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Are Social Security and Medicare running out of money?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest Columnist

**Dear Rusty:** I have been hearing reports that Social Security and Medicare will run out of money by 2035 and will only pay approximately 75 percent of benefits. First, is that true about Social Security? And second, will they reduce benefits to people who are already on it or just the new people signing up? Signed: Worried about the Future

**Dear Worried:** The financial difficulties facing both Social Security and Medicare are well known by those of us who work with these programs every day, and Congress is equally and acutely aware of the issues. But Social Security and Medicare are two entirely separate programs, which require two entirely separate answers.

Let’s discuss Social Security first. The SS Trust Fund now has about \$2.9 trillion in assets. These are reserves accumulated from past revenues that exceeded the cost of providing past benefits to recipients of Social Security. That seems like a lot of money but starting this year (2020) Social Security will need to use some of those reserves to pay full benefits. That’s because benefits paid out to recipients in 2020 will be more than the money coming in (this was expected even before the pandemic exacerbated the problem). And that trend will continue, and worsen, as we go forward in time. Without Congressional action, the SS Trust Fund reserves will be exhausted in 2035. And unless Congress acts before then to increase SS revenue and/or reduce SS expenses, when the Trust Fund is dry, an across-the-board cut in benefits will affect everyone. That’s because with the Trust Fund empty, Social Security can only pay out as much money as it receives in revenue and it’s currently estimated that, in 2035, that will result in a cut of 21 percent for everyone. Sadly, the actions needed to correct Social Security’s financial issues are well known; what’s missing is bipartisan cooperation in Congress to implement the changes needed.

There is no doubt that Social Security needs reform to be able to sustain full benefits for future generations and, hopefully, Congress will step forward soon to make those changes. Historically, any changes made to Social Security do not affect those who are already collect-

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [dfarmer@turley.com](mailto:dfarmer@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Douglas Farmer at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Lisa Marulli, 413-283-8393 or [lmarrulli@turley.com](mailto:lmarrulli@turley.com), about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:  
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Letter to the Editor  
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Palmer MA 01069,**  
or by e-mail to:  
[dfarmer@turley.com](mailto:dfarmer@turley.com)

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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# Local family shares their personal COVID-19 story of loss and recovery

PALMER — While many COVID-19 patients are making a full recovery, the more serious cases have been found in people who are middle-aged, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems and other underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes or chronic lung disease. These patients have a harder time recovering from COVID-19 and in some cases can deteriorate quickly.

Western Massachusetts has not been spared of the agony that this human tragedy is leaving behind as courageous doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers battle daily to save lives.

“This new virus brings challenges for healthcare workers as they care for patients and their families,” said Dr. Benjamin Freda, hospitalist and assistant professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, who is part of the COVID-19 care team at Baystate Wing Hospital. “In order to keep this virus from spreading, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living complexes have kept patients separate from families and visitors.”

“Our team is caring for patients and also helping them connect with their families and loved ones while

in the hospital using an iPad and FaceTime,” said Dr. Freda. “In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are experiencing the loss of loved ones and in some cases we are helping to provide a measure of closure for families.”

Anthony D’Amato of Belcher-town has left behind a mourning family who so dearly loved the man they called “dad” and “grandpa.”

When the news broke of COVID-19 in the United States, Anthony’s granddaughters, Melanie Ciesluk and Alyssa Maggi were both immediately concerned for her grandfather’s health and safety.

“Although he lives alone, my mom, who lives next door to him, is his primary caregiver,” said Ciesluk. “As the mass panic of COVID-19 grew, I began to be concerned for my mom as well. She works a few jobs, one of them at a grocery store,” she said.

Then the unthinkable happened.

“Never in my wildest nightmares did I imagine that both my mom and grandfather would test positive for COVID-19 within one week of each other,” Ciesluk said.

Her mom, Gina D’Amato, was nervous about contracting the virus since she was at risk because of where she worked.

“I was very worried that I might give it to my dad and my girls. I told my dad not to go to the store and I would pick up what he needed. Then I got sick, and I wasn’t feeling well enough to take care of him the way that I usually did. After that we relied on phone calls to check in and make sure he was doing okay,” D’Amato said.

One morning, when he didn’t answer the phone, she discovered he had fallen and had been alone on the floor all night, unable to pick himself up.

D’Amato called the ambulance and the EMTs transported her father to Baystate Wing Hospital.

“Five days later I found myself in the same ambulance being admitted to Baystate Wing Hospital in the COVID Unit just two rooms down from my father after we both tested positive for COVID-19. The doctors, nurses and staff went above and beyond to care of my father and for me,” D’Amato said, whose recovery was under the watchful eye of Dr. Freda and Dr. Jill Levin, hospitalist, of the Baystate Wing COVID-19 care team.

“The staff were concerned about me and how I was feeling both physically and mentally. Dr. Freda is very knowledgeable and shared with me what he knew about

COVID-19 and the treatment plan for me. Not only is he a wonderful doctor, he is a very caring person,” she added.

Every morning when the nurse came in to do D’Amato’s EKG, she would ask how her father did throughout the night.

“He was stable for the first few days, but then the doctors prepared me for what I hoped wasn’t true. His condition was declining, and it was unlikely he would be able to fight this or make it through,” D’Amato said.

When it came time for D’Amato to be discharged after spending nine days in the hospital, given the circumstances, Dr. Freda thought it would be good for her to go and see her father.

“The morning of my discharge I felt an overwhelming sense of guilt and sadness that this would be the last time I saw my father. I told him that I loved him, and I was sorry I had to leave him there. I knew he would pass alone without his family around him,” D’Amato said.

Dr. Freda helped her prepare for what was to come and walked out of the hospital with D’Amato telling her he would “take care of my father as if he were his own father.”

“He had spoken to one of the

nurses about how it would be a good idea to get a picture of me saying goodbye to my father before I was discharged. I am now so glad they gave me this opportunity and that the hospital staff made it possible for my father to receive the anointing of the sick by his priest over the phone,” D’Amato said.

Alyssa Maggi, Anthony’s granddaughter, noted that there is nothing that can prepare you “to say goodbye to someone who was once so strong, but slowly fading away.”

“It was so surreal and heart breaking to see firsthand the pain and suffering he was facing and I wished I could hold his hand and comfort him. I was grateful, however, that my sister, my mom and my grandpa and I were able to have a group facetime to see each with the use of the hospital’s iPad with the help of his nurse. He told me he loved me, which in itself is usually no easy feat to get out of him - a retired soldier and police officer,” she said.

Seventeen days after being admitted to the hospital, Anthony D’Amato passed away peacefully, with his nurse and care team by his side.

Working tirelessly, health care providers at times struggle them-

selves to cope with the uncommon stress and the magnitude of what their job has now become as a result of COVID-19. Dr. Freda, his partner Dr. Jill Levin, was also caring for Gina and her father and so many other COVID -19 patients. They join the tireless, brave and dedicated care team that includes the nurses, respiratory therapists, phleboto-mists, patient care technicians and environmental and food services staff to pause and honor the lives of those affected by COVID-19.

D’Amato said that Dr. Freda and all the staff at Baystate Wing Hospital “should be commended for all their hard work and dedication,” during this unprecedented pandemic.

“I am grateful that I beat COVID-19 with the help of so many wonderful doctors, nurses and the care team at Baystate Wing. My physical recovery started when got I home, but my emotional recovery has yet to begin. Losing a loved one and not being able to say goodbye with traditional funeral services that bring family and friends together to grieve the loss of a loved one makes closure more difficult. These are very challenging times for my family as I know it is for many other families as well,” D’Amato said.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 4

ing benefits (it would be political suicide to do that), but rather will apply to future beneficiaries (much more palatable politically). Of course, that cannot be guaranteed but, if history is our guide, changes will eventually be made that shore up Social Security’s finances, and those changes will affect only those

who are not yet eligible to collect benefits.

As for Medicare, part of the FICA payroll taxes paid by every American worker includes an amount (1.45 percent) to pay for Medicare Part A (hospitalization) coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. Any excess collected goes into an “HI Trust Fund” reserved for paying Medicare Part A expenses. According to latest reports the HI

Trust Fund is projected to run dry in about 2026, at which point, theoretically, only hospital expenses equal to revenue could be paid.

Medicare Part B coverage (for doctors and other outpatient services) is paid for from two sources — one source is the monthly premiums that are paid by every Part B beneficiary, and the other source is the government’s General Treasury (which picks up the difference be-

tween what is collected in Part B premiums and what is needed to pay healthcare expenses). Similarly, it’s expected that the government will shore up Medicare Part A as needed when the time comes (which it has in the past). So, while Medicare is clearly under a lot of financial stress from the ever-increasing cost of health care, it’s highly doubtful that the program is in any danger of going away. More probably, Con-

gress will look to cut the program’s expense structure, which would affect medical service providers more than individuals.

*Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security adviser through the Association of Mature American Citizens. This column is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions*

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Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden  
**Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School staff members and bus drivers leaving the parking lot to officially begin the parade.**

**PATHFINDER** from page 1

have done to celebrate, we’re really happy to celebrate the seniors this way,” said Duda. “We really want to do everything we can for these graduates — they’ve been shortchanged.”

Assistant principal Carrie Auffrey and director of guidance Brenda Turner, who were the event organizers, have been planning for this event for over a month, and timed the execution to ensure the graduating seniors would receive their caps and gowns along with other senior gifts in time for graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

“We wanted to make sure if we were going to do it that it was going to be meaningful; not only the celebration, but also in what we’re providing for families,” said Turner.

Palmer terminal manager of J.P. McCarthy and Sons, Tricia Brennan, was also responsible for planning the parade by coordinating each of the routes so that each bus would successfully reach each graduating senior.

“I combined a couple of routes that kind of go in the same area, so that we just knock it down to six as opposed to the 13 (buses) that we have,” said Brennan.

The senior class officers, treasurer Ashley Opale-nik, class president Saebra Delaney, vice president Savannah Sklariski, historian Jason Desjardins, secretary Caitlyn Sigovitch, and class representative Emily Latulippe also assisted with the parade.

After finding that the reminder of their senior year was gone, they decided to put the rest of their class money into getting gifts for their fellow classmates.

“One of the coolest aspects of this is that we get to say a final goodbye to our classmates, said Latulippe. “Getting to do this sends the message to celebrate one more time together.”

## BLOOD

from page 3

all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

**Upcoming blood donation opportunities, May 27-June 15:**

**Springfield:**  
6/3/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/4/2020: 12 p.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/5/2020: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/6/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive

Drive  
6/7/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 3 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/8/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/9/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/10/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/11/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/12/2020: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/13/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive

6/14/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive  
6/15/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 7 p.m., Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive

### About blood donation

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to com-

plete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

### About the American Red Cross

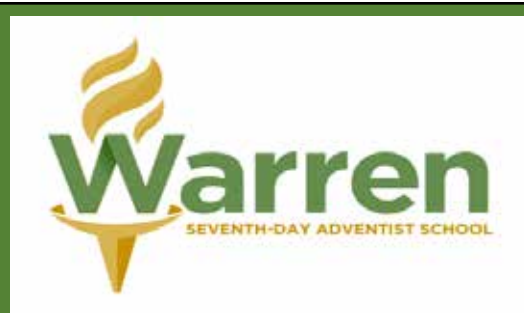
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamerica.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



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Schools

# Palmer High Senior Video



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden  
Palmer High School principal Susan North.



Palmer High School senior class president and salutatorian Delaney Walch.



Palmer High School senior Jerzey Torres.



Palmer High School senior Jake Bollea.

**PHS** | from page 1

guidelines, only students were able to come, then leave campus after providing their graduation-related information.

Regarding seeing each student put on their cap and gown, which she also said was her favorite thing about this event, Principal North said she is happy this is another effort they could do for the graduating Class of 2020.

“They’re so excited to be in their caps and gowns, and it’s wonderful to see when they’re up there and thanking their families, telling them how much they appreciate their support, and pushing them to this point of graduation,” said North. “It’s wonderful. I’m glad to be a part of it.”

Seniors, although disappointed that their last year as a high school student was changed drastically from COVID-19, said they’re still appreciative of the efforts that PHS and other volunteers have made for them to celebrate.

Senior Jerzey Torres said, “I really like that they’re there for us, and it makes us feel that we’re not alone, and all together in this.” She also said that she appreciates efforts being in made in other communities, “to make it as best as possible for everyone.”

During her recording, senior class president and salutatorian Delaney Walch addressed her fellow classmates and said that this experience only showcases how strong each of them are for continuing to press on.

“Although we are the class of 2020, we certainly didn’t see this one coming,” she said. “We are living through unprecedented times and missing out on milestones we’ve been anticipating for years. However, we will not let the current pandemic get in the way of celebrating our accomplishments and moving on to our futures. Although we are graduating through the coronavirus pandemic, we will not let that define us. Instead, I am positive that we will make ourselves known as the class of selfless and strong individuals, who are capable of achieving so much in this world.”

Once the video is complete, North said it will be shared through online platforms such as Youtube, the Town of Palmer’s website, the Parent-Teacher Organization’s Facebook and Palmer United Booster Club’s Facebook pages, and emailed to families, to ensure its accessibility.

Other staff, faculty, and volunteers that North and Chapin want to thank for putting this event together include assistant principal Connie Mahoney, school resource officer Kenneth Baer, health director Matthew Marciniak, math teacher Amy Herring, english teacher Jennifer McCarthy, director of transportation Drew Damien, guidance counselor Kristina Dobiecki, guidance counselor Taunya Neilsen, superintendent Patricia Gardner, and Ryan Shepard and David Farnum from M-PACT-TV.

## Vanessa Otero named Interim Director of Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley

*Organization forms into 501(c)3 nonprofit; Frank Robinson named President*

SPRINGFIELD – The Board of Directors of the Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley (HRIPV) has announced that former board member, Vanessa Otero, has been named Interim Director through the end of the year to support and move forward the work of the Institute.

The Institute has also announced it has become a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Otero is among the co-founders of HRIPV that grew out of a City2City Pioneer Valley visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2011, where a Healing Racism Institute was formed and housed at the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. Grand Rapids has also established institutes in their community’s faith and higher education sectors.



According to Otero, “This work began for me after a trip to Grand Rapids with other community leaders. I remember stopping John Davis, another founder of the initiative, in the hallway to tell him I wanted to be part of his effort to address racism in our region. Since then, even when my participation waned, I believed in the importance of this work and the impact it has on participants.” She continued, “The pandemic provides a moment

According

OTERO | page 9

## AAA Pioneer Valley open as of June 1st; services by appointment only

AAA Pioneer Valley has reopened all six branch offices as of Monday, June 1st, following strict social distancing procedures and CDC guidelines for the protection and benefit of employees and AAA members.

Registry of Motor Vehicles services will be available by appointment only, to AAA members, who can reserve a time online up to two weeks in advance of service. AAA membership, insurance, travel and financial services will be available, either in person, by phone or through a virtual meeting. AAA encourages appointments for all services as there

will be a strict limit on how many members can be in the offices at a given time. Appointments can be made by visiting [www.AAA.com/appointments](http://www.AAA.com/appointments) today.

“In strict adherence to the Governor’s guidance, we are pleased to be reopening offices in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin county with the goal of helping and serving during this challenging time,” said Chris Mensing, AAA Pioneer Valley President and CEO. “We’re also eager to resume Registry of Motor Vehicle services, though they will be by appointment moving forward for added AAA Member convenience,” he

added. AAA’s 24-hour Emergency Roadside Assistance has been and continues to be available throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 shutdown.

AAA Pioneer Valley full-service branches are in Greenfield, Hadley, Springfield and West Springfield. Insurance only services are available in Chicopee and Westfield. Clients and AAA Members should visit [www.AAA.com/appointments](http://www.AAA.com/appointments) to make an appointment in advance. Office hours have changed and are now Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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### GRADUATION | from page 1

High School was postponed and will now be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Graduates will remain six feet apart and there will be room for a limited number of ticket-only guests, according to Palmer Public Schools superintendent Patricia Gardner.

More details will be published in the *Journal Register* closer to the July 12<sup>th</sup> date.

**Monson High School**  
Monson High School’s in-person graduation at Granite Valley School will be held on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

The time and details have not yet been confirmed, according to Bob Bardwell, director of school counseling.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m., the school released its pre-recorded virtual awards program, which is available on Monson High School’s website. On Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.,

there will be a Senior Car Parade for its 56 seniors that will leave the high school and travel down Margaret and High to Main streets, with seniors in decorated cars. Graduates will be encouraged to wear their caps and gowns, according to the school’s newsletter. Townspeople and guests can line the parade route

and cheer on the graduates and cones will be placed on the road to ensure viewers are far enough apart, Bardwell said. Details on Monson’s graduation plans will be published in the *Journal Register* as graduation nears.

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## TRACK

# Palmer boys track had great experience to go with newcomers

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – The Palmer High School boys track had six seniors that were looking for one more great season in the sun.

Coach Jennifer McDiarmid had high hopes for this senior class, saying she had a solid group of athletes to work with for the 2020 season.

She highlighted her seniors: Cotton Hewes, Domenick Rayleonnard, Justin Oliveira, Jack Baker, Daniel Bernard, and Tyler Placanico.

Hewes was mostly a runner and specifically was a distance runner. He was a regular in the one mile, two mile, and also did the 800 meter.

“He was a repeat qualifier for

the post season,” said McDiarmid. “And I know he would have returned this year. Cotton will be attending college to study business and marketing, and I can’t wait to see where life takes this talented, determined young man.”

Rayleonnard was set to be a captain this year and was a shorter distance runner, though he did do the one mile.

“Dom also anchored our 4x400 meter relay team and was a long jumper,” said McDiarmid. “Domenick was the Spring 2019 MVP, and was a repeat post season qualifier, finishing eighth at the Central West Championship Meet.”

Oliveira was a relayer, and was great at the javelin throw.

Justin served as an excellent role model for the younger throw-

ers,” said McDiarmid. “And always helped those who needed it. I am so proud of Justin’s work ethic.”

Baker was a hurdler as well as a thrower.

McDiarmid said he was a post-season qualifier and a supportive teammate.

Bernard is also a relay competitor and a javelin throw. Bernard also threw the shot put.

McDiarmid said he set a great example for younger competitors.

Placanico finishes a brilliant athletic career at Palmer High that also included football and basketball.

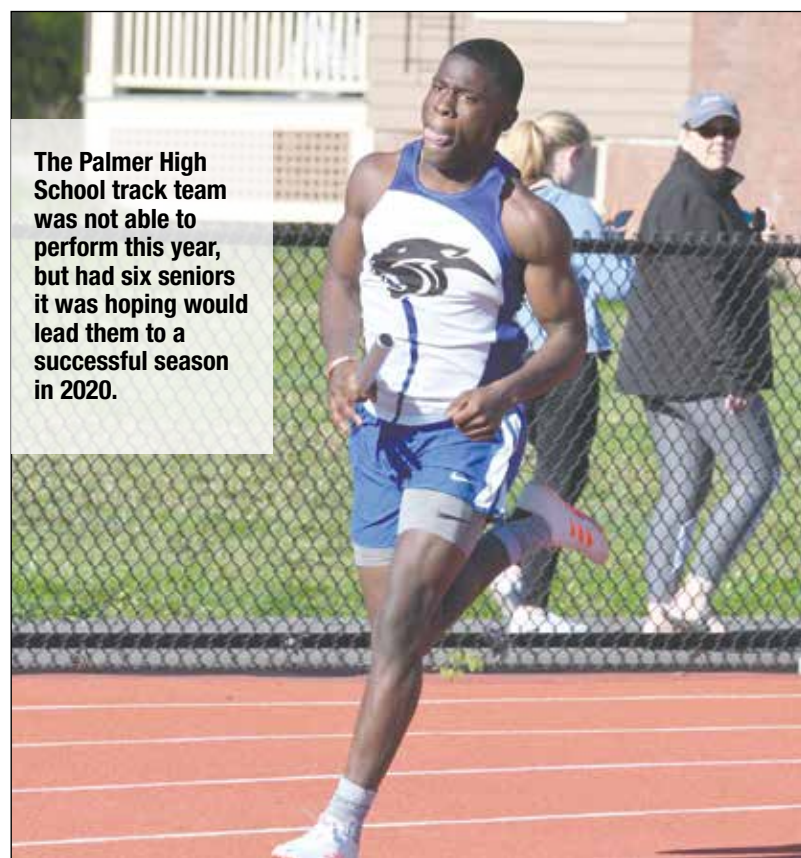
“Tyler ran the 4x100 meter relay (qualifying for the Central West Championship Meet),” said the coach. “And high jumped (best jump 5’4”). I know he would have

excelled this season as well. Tyler will be missed, and I wish him well in his future plans.”

McDiarmid said it was frustrating to lose the season for all the kids.

“I am extremely disappointed that the season could not be salvaged, even just for one meet to recognize our seniors,” she said. “I know our athletes are equally as disappointed, but many of them have been working out on their own. I think this speaks to their dedication to bettering themselves and contributing to their team.”

“As a coach, it is frustrating to not be able to interact with my team, and this spring was finally looking decent weather wise.”



The Palmer High School track team was not able to perform this year, but had six seniors it was hoping would lead them to a successful season in 2020.



## SUMMER SOCCER

# PVSSL awaiting guidance, will delay start of season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – After three months of waiting, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League could be one of the first leagues to have actual games starting early next month.

Diana Kolodziey, runs the PVSSL along with her husband Chris, said earlier this week they are planning to hold a regular season and playoffs, with a slightly modified schedule.

“Based on the governor’s re-opening plan,” she said. “We are hoping to start the season sometime in early July.”

That start will not be without questions, issues, and a lot of guidance from the state level.

Under Gov. Charlie Baker’s re-open plan, the four main phases are: Start, Cautious, Vigilant, and the New Normal.

The New Normal, until a vaccine is discovered, will still involve restrictions for people, and could have a whole new meaning for sports. But according to the Baker plan, the second phase would allow for practices to begin at various fields throughout the region.

Games should be able to begin in the third phase, vigilant. However, the guidance and regulations for

businesses and activities have yet to be made public by the Baker administration.

Kolodziey they are waiting for that guidance from the governor’s office so it can inform teams of how they must conduct themselves.

Restrictions could include social distancing when not directly involved in the game, possible temperature checks, wearing masks when not in the field of play, and disallowing fans from games.

Modifications of these rules could also be possible. In the case of soccer, fans could possibly be allowed if they are on the opposite end of the field and fans are properly distanced from one another, like in the case of people going to the beach, which are now open.

The other major issue the PVSSL will have to watch closely is each town and how the individual communities and cities lift restrictions on field use, allowing games, and gatherings of various sizes.

Currently, certain professional sports are only allowing players to practice in smaller groups.

Finally, Kolodziey said the early July start to the season is dependent on there being no setbacks in the governor’s re-opening plan

## SUMMER BASEBALL

# Adult baseball still hopeful for 2020 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON – Baseball leagues have dwindled a bit, limiting choices for collegiate stars, adult standouts from the Tri-County League, and high school players and post-graduates who lost out on American Legion seasons.

While there are no known alternative options for the younger players, there is an emerging look for adult players 25 and above.

At least four leagues have not called it quits on a 2020 season, all with the flexibility to hold their seasons later and even play into the fall.

However, even with governor’s re-open plan, it is not fully clear when teams in the leagues will be able to begin play, though

many are hopeful it will be sometime this month.

Phase 2, known as “Cautious,” is supposed to allow teams to begin practicing. Phase 2 is supposed to start on Monday, June 8. However, each phase has had sub-phases with different activities and businesses opening up each week since the re-open plan began on Monday, May 18.

Also, different communities will take different approaches to opening recreational facilities, making the availability of fields also limited.

Adult players, some of whom are Tri-County American or National players, have begun looking at the various leagues for open spots to play, or even to possibly enter teams.

## NOTICE

# 2020 Bay State Summer Games events cancelled through July

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

“We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the utmost importance to keep

everyone safe during these unprecedented times,” says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year.”

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. Sport pages on the Bay State Games website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration. For more information, please visit www.baystategames.org. Please direct all questions and inquiries to info@baystategames.org.



# Campus Notes

## Timothy Hayden inducted into Tau Beta Pi National Honor Society

PALMER – Timothy Hayden of Palmer was welcomed into Tau Beta Pi National Honor Society on May 15 at the Western New England University chapter’s annual induction ceremony. Tau Beta Pi is a national honor society for engineering students. To be elected, students must demonstrate outstanding scholarship and professional integrity. This year’s induction ceremony was held virtually.

Dr. S. Hossein Cheraghi, Dean of the College of Engineering said “We commend all of you on your outstanding efforts in completing your degree requirements in an online learning environment. We are inspired by your resiliency and hard work during this hard time. We may not be together physically, however, we are all a part of the College of Engineering family.”

Hayden is graduating with a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

## Benjamin Pagliaro named to UVM Dean’s List

MONSON – Benjamin Pagliaro, Class of 2022, has been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2020 semester at the University of Vermont. Pagliaro, from Monson, is in the College of Education and Social Services.

To be named to the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

## Clayton Courtemanche inducted into Alpha Chi honor society

MONSON – Becker College is proud to announce that Clayton Courtemanche of Monson has been named to the Alpha Chi honor society. Alpha Chi limits membership to the highest ten percent of full-time students in the junior and senior classes. The Massachusetts Theta Chapter of Alpha Chi recognizes and promotes scholarships and those elements of character that contribute to high scholarly achievement.

Courtemanche is pursuing a degree in Business Administration, Sports Management Concentration.

## Carrie Wiater earns degree from the University of Vermont

HOLLAND – Carrie Wiater of Holland graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies during commencement ceremonies on May 17, 2020.

The university conferred degrees this year on some 3,183 graduates, including 2,415 bachelor’s, 533 master’s, 114 doctoral and 121 medical degree recipients. The Class of 2020 includes graduates from 39 states and 30 countries.

The class’s academic achievement was saluted online with remarks from UVM President Suresh Garimella, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and university and state leaders.

## Elise Hanks-Witaszek graduates from Lebanon Valley College

BRIMFIELD – Elise Hanks-Witaszek of Brimfield is one of nearly 430 students marked their academic success and achievements during the culmination of a week-long virtual celebration as part of Lebanon Valley College’s 151st Commencement Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Hanks-Witaszek received a Bachelor of Science in actuarial science. Hanks-Witaszek is a graduate of Tan-tasqua Regional High School.

## Jakob Shea graduates from University of the Sciences

BRIMFIELD – Jakob Shea of Brimfield was among the graduates recognized during University of the Sciences’ 199th Commencement celebration, a virtual ceremony, held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Shea graduated with a BS in Psychology.

University of the Sciences has prepared students to be leaders and practitioners in the healthcare and science fields for nearly 200 years. Key to its distinctive education is a tradition of hands-on research and experiential learning that is evident in every graduate who has walked its campus. Since its founding in 1821 as Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the first college of pharmacy in North America, USciences has grown to more than 30 degree-granting programs from bachelor’s through doctoral degrees in the health sciences, bench sciences, and healthcare business and policy fields.

## Becker College recognizes graduates

WORCESTER/LEICESTER – Becker College is pleased to announce the graduation of more than 430 students at a virtual commencement celebration, including the following local residents:

Emma Devlin, of Brimfield, has graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science, Clinical and Laboratory Animal Medicine Concentration.

Meghan Drysdale, of Brimfield, has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Equine Studies.

Sara Foster, of Monson, has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science, Pre-Veterinary Concentration.

Jaime Richter, of Brimfield, has graduated with an Associate of Science in Nursing.

Megan Stapleton, of Monson, has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

To see Becker College’s Commencement page, including details on graduates, awards and a video message from President Crimmin, go to <https://www.becker.edu/student-life/commencement-2020/>

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# The Big E announces latest Court of Honor Stage entertainment

*Hoobastank, Lisa Lisa, Big Brother and the Holding Company, Carly Pearce and Pablo Cruise*

The Big E has announced five new concerts to take place on the Court of Honor Stage, sponsored by Mattress Firm, at the 2020 Fair, which takes place Sept. 18 - Oct. 4. All shows are free with Big E admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The stage is located in front of the iconic Coliseum.

**Concerts include:**  
**Hoobastank, Sept. 25, 8 p.m.**  
Fight or Flight, the new album from Hoobastank, marked the beginning of what was promised to be a vital new chapter in the nearly two-decade run of the versatile L.A. band. This musically and emotionally intense work is Hoobastank’s initial release on Open E Entertainment (EMI) following a productive decade on Island Records during

which they ruled the modern rock charts, crossed over big-time with the iconic smash “The Reason” and sold 10 million albums. The song garnered Grammy nominations for Song of the Year, Best Rock Album and Best Pop Performance for a Duo or Group. Push Pull, is the group’s sixth studio album and debut for noted rock independent label, Napalm Records. Band members Doug Robb, Dan Estrin, Chris Hesse and Jesse Charland approached their latest album with the swagger and confidence of a band whose first three albums all went either gold, platinum or multi-platinum.

**Lisa Lisa, Sept. 30, 8 p.m.**  
One of the greatest Latin Hip Hop/Freestyle/Pop divas to come out of the 1980’s music scene is the legendary Lisa Velez, aka Lisa Lisa of the 80’s super group Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam. The group shot straight up the charts scoring platinum hits with their first few albums. Their freshman album, Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam with Full Force, featured her break out hits “I Wonder If I Take

You Home” and “Can You Feel The Beat.” Those two songs helped launch the underground genre, Freestyle Music. They sealed that success with their third album, Straight to the Sky, releasing another number one pop single, “Little Jackie.” The early 90s brought a new sound, merging dance music and Hip Hop, and Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam rode that wave to a fourth album, Straight Out Of Hell’s Kitchen. Currently, Velez is working with Robert Drieslein of Bobby Dee Productions and Uncle Snoops Army (the legendary Snoop Dog) on new projects.

**Big Brother and the Holding Company, Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 3pm**  
Big Brother and the Holding Company is considered one of the original, first wave of great psychedelic bands that came out of San Francisco in the summer of 1965. Founders Peter Albin and Sam Andrew met James Gurley and Dave Getz who joined the band in 1966. And to complete their sound, the legendary Janis Joplin joined as lead singer. The Monterey Pop Festival

in the summer of 1967 was the first great international Rock festival and it was the moment when Big Brother and Joplin blew open the collective mind of the audience and rose to the top of the Rock music hierarchy. Fast forward to 1987 when the four original members would re-group to perform again. Since then, Big Brother and the Holding Company has toured continuously in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. After losing James Gurley in 2009 and Sam Andrew in 2015, Albin and Getz continue to present the music of Big Brother and the Holding Co to the world: “Piece of My Heart,” “Summertime,” “Ball and Chain” and more.

**Carly Pearce, Oct. 2, 8 p.m.**  
Carly Pearce’s kind of Country is fiercely rooted in the classics. She left her Kentucky home and high school at age 16 to take a job at Dollywood and, defying the odds, debuted her No. 1 single “Every Little Thing” in 2017, which made her the highest charting solo female since July 2015. She has been nominated for ACM,

CMA and CMT awards, winning the latter for Breakthrough Video of the Year for “Every Little Thing” in 2018. A loyal advocate of Country music’s legacy and future, it’s no surprise an institution like the Grand Ole Opry has invited her for more than 75 performances since her debut. Adding slots on major tours with Blake Shelton, Rascal Flatts, Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean, she has become “Country’s ‘it’ girl” (ABC Radio) while in pursuit of her childhood dream.

**Pablo Cruise, Oct. 2-4, 3 p.m.**  
In 1975, Pablo Cruise released its first A&M album simply entitled Pablo Cruise. From 1975 to 1985 the band toured the United States, Canada and Japan extensively, welcoming fans to “Climb Aboard The Good Ship Pablo Cruise.” Reaching the top 10 with mega hits like “Whatcha Gonna Do When She Says Goodbye?” and “Love Will Find A Way,” the band went on to sell several million albums and singles collectively and established themselves as well respected writers and performers within the industry.

They appeared on numerous TV shows and in 1979, broke Elvis Presley’s attendance record at the Sahara Tahoe in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, becoming the first rock band to play a casino showroom. They also became the first rock band to grace the stage at the Grand Ole Opry. After a nearly 20-year hiatus, original members, David Jenkins, Cory Leries and Stephen Price reunited and picked up where they left off. Today, the band performs all over the U.S. and Canada, and since getting back together, have released two live CDs and a DVD documenting their exceptional live shows.

Look for more concert announcements soon at TheBigE.com. The 2020 Big E takes place Sept. 18-Oct. 4 in West Springfield, Mass. Stay up to date with all Fair happenings by finding us on Facebook, following us on Twitter and Instagram or joining our mailing list at TheBigE.com.

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**POSTPONEMENT:**  
We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May Basket Raffle will be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Swiss shoe company
- Caesar, comedian
- and flow
- Horsefly
- Egyptian pharaoh
- African nation
- Tony-winning actress
- Initial public offering
- Long-winding ridge
- Guinea peoples
- Fellow
- About aviation
- Able to make amends
- Easy to perceive
- Cut off
- Northeast Thai language
- Earthy pigment
- Water nymphs
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Those who deal
- Apply a new fabric
- Confusions

**CLUES DOWN**

- Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Central American lizard
- Muslim military commanders

- One who takes to the seas
- Select jury
- Parts of the small intestine
- Painter’s accessory
- Honk
- Ballpoint pen
- Large, dark antelope
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Exhausts
- bo: exercise system
- Not written in any key or mode
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Powdery, post-burning residue
- Company that rings receipts

- Rugged mountain range
- Commercials
- NY football player
- A form of be
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Kindnesses
- Natural electrical phenomenon
- Your
- Diana \_\_, singer
- Upper surface of the mouth
- National capital
- Fluid in Greek mythology
- Renowned jazz trumpeter
- Freedom from difficulty
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Revolutionaries
- Criticize

### SOCCER | from page 7

where restrictions would have to be re-enacted. As of press time, Massachusetts has not had any setbacks on the re-open plan and numbers have continued to trend in a positive direction.

Under the current timeline, Phase 3 should start on June 29.

With the currently timeline, if the league does play, it would and transition right into the fall preseason practices. However, it also remains to be seen if those will start on time and what they will look like.

For up-to-date information on the state of the PVSSL, go to [www.pvsummersoccerleague.com](https://www.pvsummersoccerleague.com).

The PVSSL has two divisions each of high school boys soccer, and high school girls soccer. There are also mens and womens adult leagues. All are expected to play if there are no further delays or restrictions that will prevent the season from happening.

### BASEBALL | from page 7

The Western Mass. Wood Bat League is currently an eight-team league that has been in existence for many years. It allows players who are age 25 and up and could be a potential landing spot for several Tri-County players with the higher level of competition and the use of wooden bats.

The other three leagues looking into restarts are “over-30” leagues. All three have existed for a while, though two of the leagues have changed their eligibility for players this year.

The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has changed to allow players 28 and up, though pitchers may not pitch in the league until they are 30. The Quabbin Valley league has also adopted the same rule.

Both leagues would have normally started Sunday games the last week of April. Both league are eyeing starts sometime in early July based on how the governor’s guidance for Phase 3 dictates a return to actual competition.

The Pioneer Valley Over-30 Baseball League is also still on the table. The Pioneer Valley League is also a wooden bat league, but normally plays Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The Quabbin League held a meeting Sunday, and is hoping for the July start, and the league’s president said it is depending on what fields would allow play and allow it soonest.

None of the leagues have decided how long of a season it would play or what type of modified schedule it would have.



## DEATH NOTICES

**Denoncourt, Cheryl L. (Smith)**  
Died May 23, 2020  
Celebration of Life at a later date  
New England Funeral & Cremation Center

**Dyer, Ralph E.**  
Died May 27, 2020  
All Funeral services are private  
Lombard Funeral Home

**Griffin, Lillian M. (Shea)**  
Died May 20, 2020  
Memorial service at a later date  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

*The Journal Register*  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## O B I T U A R I E S

## Cheryl L. (Smith) "Sherry" Denoncourt, 54

Cheryl L. (Smith) "Sherry" Denoncourt, 54, of Monson, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 23, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by her loving family. Sherry will be remembered as a fighter with a strong will to survive, and as a kind and giving person, who was always willing to help others. Sherry loved to cook, play the slot machines, a good cup of coffee, and her cigarettes. Predeceased by her husband James (Jim) Denoncourt in 2019, she will be forever missed by her children: Melissa and Jacob (Jesse) Denoncourt; grandsons Jackson and Liam Ceincewa; mother Barbara (Nothe) Petrucelli, father Peter Smith and his wife Gail, sister-in-law Peggy (De-

noncourt) Bedore, and sister Corrie (Smith) Clark and her husband Tom of Huntsville, AL. She also leaves nieces Rebecca Towle, Alicia Connaughton and her son Bryan Boykin and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Sherry attended Monson High School and then Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School. She was a graduate of Springfield Technical Community College where she received an associate's degree in Bio Medical Electronics and Bay Path University where she received her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Business. She was employed for many years



as an accomplished Master Production Scheduler. She was an APICS member and served on the board of directors. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. All services will be private due to Covid-19. A Celebration of Life

will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to the Monson Food Pantry. <https://www.foodpantries.org/li/monsons-open-pantry> New England Funeral & Cremation Center, LLC, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visit [www.nefcc.net](http://www.nefcc.net)

## Ralph E. Dyer, 73

PALMER - Ralph E. Dyer, 73, passed away unexpectedly May 27, 2020. Ralph was born in Westfield, May 4, 1947 to the late Ralph E. and Florence L. (Fuller) Dyer. He grew up in Russell before moving to Monson and then to Palmer. Ralph was a school bus driver for several towns including Monson, Chicopee, and Wilbraham. Ralph was a member of the Palmer

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. In his younger years, he enjoyed adventures with cousins and friends at Riverside Amusement Park and loved the summers he spent driving the ding-dong cart.

Ralph was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Joanne Dyer. He leaves his sisters, Jacqueline R Smith (Harold) of Ware and Kathleen G. Dyer

of Palmer; brothers, Samuel R Dyer of Westfield and Timothy W Dyer of Colorado as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

All funeral services are private. Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com).

## Lillian Marie (Shea) Griffin, 96

Lillian Marie (Shea) Griffin, 96, of Carpinteria, California passed away peacefully on May 20, 2020 with her daughter and son-in-law by her side at GranVida Assisted Living and Memory Care in Carpinteria, CA. 'Lil' was a long-time resident of Bondsville and a communicant in the former St. Bartholomew's Church. Daughter of the late Patrick and Joanna (Callahan) Shea, Lil was born in Palmer, MA on September 24, 1923 and grew up in Chicopee Falls. She graduated from Cathedral High School in 1941 and joined the war effort in 1942 as a Junior Typist and Mimeograph Operator for the Hartford Ordinance District in Springfield. She later resumed her Secretari-

al career in the 1970's on a part-time basis for the Hampden County Probation Office in Palmer.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband Bernard J. Griffin, her son Bernard J. Griffin, Jr. and her brother, Thomas Shea. She is survived by her daughter Cathryn Griffin of Waynesville, North Carolina and daughter Patricia Griffin Globa and son-in-law Alexander (Sasha) Globa of Carpinteria, CA as well as her in-laws, many nieces, nephews, cousins and their extended families. Those who knew her will miss her quick wit.



She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, reading, art, music, cooking, going out to dinner, times at Hampton Beach and Forest Lake, flowers and singing old familiar songs. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of

flowers, consider a donation to one of Lil's favorite charities: The United Services Organization (U.S.O.) at USO Department WS, PO Box 96860, Washington DC 2009-6860 or a charity of your choice. For more information or to sign the online guest book, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)

## Police/Fire

## Police Logs

## PALMER

*The Palmer Police Department responded to 393 incidents from May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The department made eight arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.*

## Tuesday, May 26

Aaron Robert Driscoll, 38, of 6 Chestnut St., Ware, was arrested at 1:31 a.m. on Ware Street in Thorndike, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and a marked lanes violation.

## Wednesday, May 27

Martin W. Henrich, 42, of 181 West St., Ware, was arrested at 7:01 p.m., on Main Street in Three Rivers, on charges of the possession/consumption of an open container of an alcoholic beverage; assault and battery; and a warrant.

## Thursday, May 28

Joey Jene Jr. Bush, 23, of 1126 South Main Street, Palmer, was arrested at 4:30 p.m., on South Main Street in Palmer, for a warrant, and

the possession of a Class A drug.

Paul W. Morris, 39, of 1126 South Main Street, Palmer, was arrested at 4:30 p.m., on South Main Street in Palmer, for a warrant.

## Friday, May 29

Anita Ares, 34, of 75 Orleans St. Apt. #2R, Springfield, was arrested at 5:20 p.m., on Thorndike Street in Palmer, for an arrest warrant.

## Monday, June 1

Latisha Luz Vasquez, 35, of 58 Mountain Rd., Wilbraham, was arrested at 5:52 p.m., on the corner of Shearer Street and Lawrence Street in Palmer, for a warrant.

## MONSON

*The Monson Police Department made a total of four arrests or summons from May 24<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.*

## Sunday, May 24

Sean M. Fontaine, 27, of 40 Stafford Hollow Rd., Monson, was

arrested at 5:10 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor (second offense); operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license; exceeding the posted speeding rate; and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

## Tuesday, May 26

Derek Threats, 34, of 698 Center St., Manchester, was arrested at 7:16 p.m., on charges of possession to distribute a Class D drug; and three charges of possessing a Class B drug.

## Wednesday, May 27

Jason Ulysses Cruz, 26, of 17 Wrentham Rd., Springfield, was arrested at 7:52 p.m., on charges of having no inspection sticker; forging/misusing an RMV document; and a WMS warrant.

## Friday, May 29

Nicholas Andrew Parker, 36, of 134 Wales Rd., Monson, was arrested 9:38 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; operating under the influence of liquor with a suspended license for OUI; and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for OUI.

## Fire Logs

## PALMER

*The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of 11 calls from May 27th through June 2nd.*

On Wednesday, May 27th, at 11:30 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 12:15 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 27th, at 6:13 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Country Lane. The department returned to service at 6:42 p.m.

On Thursday, May 28th, at 7:28 a.m., the department responded to a cooking fire contained to a container on Depot Street. The department returned to service at 8:38 a.m.

On Thursday, May 28th, at 9:43 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 10:03 a.m.

On Thursday, May 28th, at 10:05 a.m., the department provided a public service on Memory Lane. The department returned to service at 10:37 a.m.

On Thursday, May 28th, at 12:49 p.m., the department provided a public service on Memory Lane. The department returned to service at 1:35 p.m.

On Thursday, May 28th, at 4:01 p.m., the department provided a brush fire on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 4:33 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 5:25 a.m., the department provided medical assistance on River Street. The

department returned to service at 6:00 a.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 3:20 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Ware Street. The department returned to service 5:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, at 1:48 a.m., the department responded to an oil spill on Stimson Street. The department returned to service at 2:29 a.m.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, at 8:19 a.m., the department provided public service to Fairview Street. The department returned to service at 8:38 a.m.

## BONDSVILLE

*The Bondsville Fire Department responded to a total of four calls between May 26th through June 1st.*

On Wednesday, May 27th, at 8:54 p.m., the duty officer investigated an unauthorized burning complaint on Hill Street. The duty officer returned to service at 9:15 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 3:10 p.m., the department responded to Philips Street for a brush fire. The department returned to service at 3:55 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 3:55 p.m., the department provided mutual to Ware Street to assist the Palmer Fire Department with a brush fire. The department returned to service

at 4:31 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 7:25 p.m., the duty officer responded to Anis Manor Road for a service call. The duty officer returned to service at 7:40 p.m.

## THREE RIVERS

*The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to a total of two calls from May 26th through May 31st.*

On Tuesday, May 26th, at 11:09 p.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Sibley Street. Response was cancelled at 11:14 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31st, at 1:46 p.m., the department responded to an unattended campfire along the Swift River. The department returned to service at 2:40 p.m.

## MONSON

*The Monson Fire Department responded to a total of 22 EMS Calls and one Fire Call for the week of May 25th through May 31st.*

On Monday, May 25th, at 1:48 p.m., the department responded to 18 T-Peck Rd. for an illegal burn. The department returned to service at 2:20 p.m.

OTERO I from page 6

in time where I can be of help in anticipation of hiring a permanent director. This is not a full-time position but as important as any work I have done for the greater good."

HRIPV's transition to a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is a result of the Institute's growth in size and scope in recent years, performing work that has engaged over 800 individuals, more than 200 organizations and nearly 20 sectors. The work has also expanded into the metro Boston area. The nonprofit organization status will help as the organization formalizes resource development and expands its offerings beyond its signature two-day Healing Racism seminar.

As part of the move to a 501(c)3 the HRIPV Board has appointed Bay-state Health executive and longtime social justice advocate Frank Robinson as the organization's first president.

Otero is currently the Director of Smith College's Urban Education

Initiative. She has deep roots in the community serving on state and regional boards, including being appointed by the governor to the Governor's Latino Advisory Commission. Otero is also the chair of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. Mostly recently, Otero was asked to join the Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group, advising Commissioner Monica Bharel and DPH on health equity issues related to, and exacerbated by, the COVID-19 pandemic, and providing suggestions on solutions to be implemented at all levels.

Otero graduated from Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar. She has a Master's in Public Policy Administration from the University of Massachusetts.

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ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for  
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Sweeping chimneys year round. Thank  
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workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373**  
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BELCHERTOWN, MA**

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Call for all your needs. Windows, sid-  
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CALL JAY (413)436-5782-  
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Mulch/ Stone  
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No additives, fillers or by-products. Lo-  
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### STOP WET BASEMENTS

**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT  
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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatch-  
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Specializing in all aspects of quality  
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For Your Connection  
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Complete roofing systems and repairs.  
Fully licensed and insured. MA CS  
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**Let me save you money.** Tree re-  
moval, hazard tree removal, cordwood,  
stump grinding. We're fully insured and  
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stump grinding, storm damage, lot  
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discount. Call today for free estimate  
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## SERVICES

### STUMP GRINDING

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ing stumps of all sizes, insured & cer-  
tified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-  
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**CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!!** All  
Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Con-  
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GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE  
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**HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS**  
offered year round at our state of the  
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MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.**  
HHAs, CNAs, Homemakers New  
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## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF WARREN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

**ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR**  
The Town of Warren Board of Sewer  
Commissioners is accepting Applica-  
tions for a Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Assistant Chief Operator. Salary is in  
accordance with the Town's current  
wage classification plan.  
Applicants must possess a Massachu-  
setts Grade 5 Operators License and  
valid MA Driver's license.  
Job descriptions and applications are  
available at the Warren Wastewater  
Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street,  
West Warren, MA 01092 The position  
will remain open until filled.  
Warren is an EOE.

## REAL ESTATE

**MONSON - 3-ROOM** immaculate  
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ing, trash removal, NO pets/smoking,  
FLS required \$625/ mo. Call **413-  
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history. **413-262-5082**

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**SECURE STORAGE HAS** opened a  
brand new facility in Ware behind the  
Ware Post Office. Call for all your  
storage needs and our low rates. **413-  
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## VACATION RENTALS

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round  
In Aruba. The water is safe, and the  
dining is fantastic. Walk out to the  
beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available.  
Sleeps 8. Email: carolacton@aol.com  
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## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Federal  
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes  
it illegal to advertise any preference,  
limitation or discrimination based on  
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,  
familial status (number of children and  
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,  
age, marital status, or any intention to  
make any such preference, limitation or  
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept  
any advertising for real estate that is in  
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings advertising in  
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opportunity basis. To complain about  
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toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.  
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll  
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1-800-927-9275.

**HOUSE  
HUNTING?**  
Find it in our  
Classified section!

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised  
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Housing Act, which makes it illegal to  
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make any such preference, limitation,  
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estate which is in violation of the law.  
All persons are hereby informed that  
all dwellings advertised are available  
on an equal opportunity basis.

**BROOKFIELD 1 BR** 2nd fl, off-  
street parking, \$580/ mo + utilities.  
Must have good rental history **413-  
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ACCEPTED FOR ONE, TWO  
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APARTMENTS**

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\*Ample Closets  
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\*Community Room  
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For information call  
**(413)967-7755 EHO**

17 Convent Hill, Ware, MA



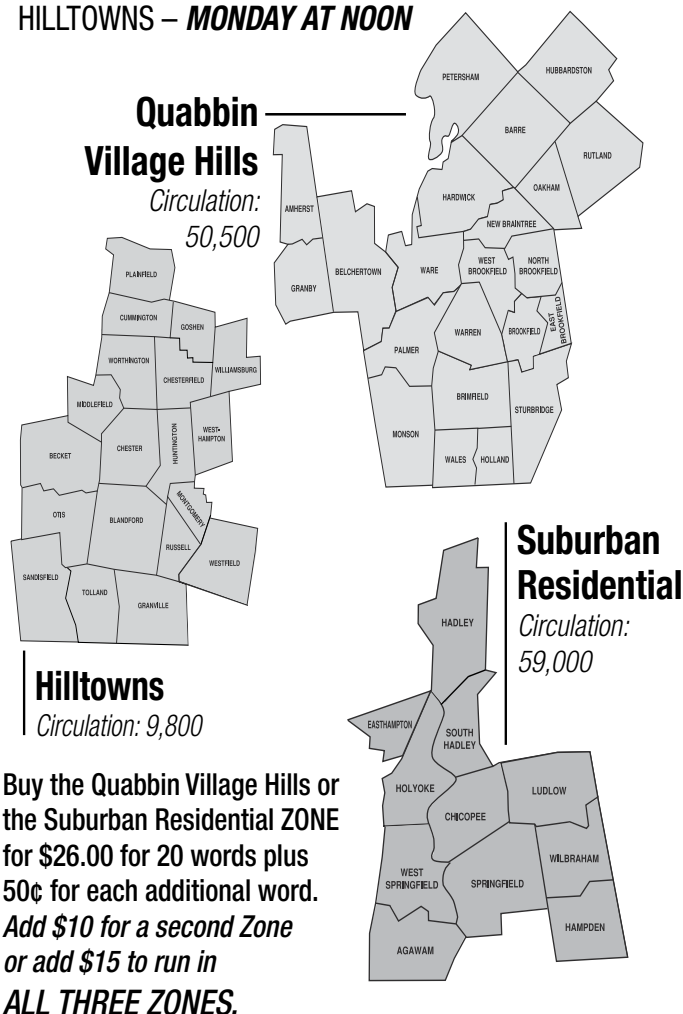
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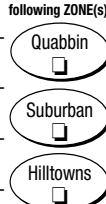
**DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



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**280 Old Dana Road**  
1,500± sf. Antique Farmhouse & Barn  
with Subdivision Potential  
Absolute Above Opening Bid of \$100k

**Wednesday, June 17 at 11:00am On-site**

Open House: Wednesday, June 10 (11am-1pm)

**JJ Manning**  
AUCTIONEERS

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**JJManning.com**  
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## Classified Advertising

### DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON**

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,  
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



## LIBRARY I from page 1

“(People) take what they want; if something doesn’t move for a while, I change it out,” said Belieu. “I’ll take everything out and then put all new books in, so that there’s constantly a new variety.”

As for keeping the library clean, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has raised the awareness and need for constant sanitation, Belieu said she usually uses Clorox wipes. She also said when people come to visit, they are usually wearing masks and gloves, which in return keeps the library clean.

Since the opening of the library and starting a Facebook page for it, Belieu said the feedback for the library has been positive, and the library has even gotten a regular visitor.

She has also gotten positive feedback from the Facebook page.

“They posted that they get and what they’re looking for here,” said Belieu.

One of the reasons why she put the library together was to introduce people to reading at a young age.

“If you get them excited about read-

ing when they’re little, they’ll have no problems within their life, because they’ll always love it,” she said.

She also said she acknowledges that some parents or guardians cannot afford to go out and buy books for the kids, but with this free library, they are able to do so, and to enhance children’s reading skills.

Aside from children, she also said that reading for everyone else is helpful and can be used as a therapeutic escape.

Another important aspect that Belieu likes about this library is that it’s brought out a sense of togetherness in the community.

“I have hundreds of books now, and it’s all because (residents) saw the little library on Facebook,” said Belieu. “(People) donated a couple books, they took a couple of books, so everybody’s involved – it’s not all on me.”

Since there is a streetlight across the street from the library, located on 1114 Park Street, the free library is accessible at any time of day.

To learn more about the free library, visit the Facebook page “Palmer’s First Free Little Library.”

## New England Public Media celebrates high school graduates with broadcast

SPRINGFIELD – New England Public Media, the new alliance of WGBY and NEPR, will honor graduating high school seniors with the broadcast of Massachusetts Commencement 2020, a virtual state-wide commencement ceremony on WGBY TV at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

Governor Charlie Baker will deliver the commencement address to the graduating seniors from 668 public and private schools across the Commonwealth. The program will feature congratulatory remarks from Jason and Devin McCourty of the New England Patriots, members of the Red Sox and the Boston Celtics, and a number of celebrities with Massachusetts ties,

including singer Rachel Platten, actor Steve Carell, and others. In a special premiere performance, members of the legendary Boston Pops, with Keith Lockhart conducting, will provide the traditional graduation march ‘Pomp and Circumstance’ for the ceremony.

Students from around the Commonwealth will present a combined valedictorian-type speech to their classmates. The student remarks for the program are being prepared in collaboration with 826 Boston, a nonprofit youth writing and publishing organization.

The program, which is being produced by WGBH in Boston, will be broadcast across the Commonwealth on WGBY and

WGBH. It will also be streamed locally at wgbypb.org and on WGBY’s Facebook page.

“Graduation ceremonies are important milestones in a young person’s life that deserve to be celebrated,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “While we cannot gather in the traditional way, we want to recognize, celebrate and salute Massachusetts’ Class of 2020 for their accomplishments and their resiliency during these difficult times. We are very thankful to WGBH for working with us to help us do that.”

“All of us at New England Public Media are happy to be able to bring this important celebration to families throughout western Massachusetts,” said Martin Miller, President of NEPM.

“While this will be different from the traditional ceremonies held at individual schools, it will allow everyone across the Commonwealth to congratulate all our Massachusetts graduates together. And with the live stream option at wgbypb.org, family members and friends from all over the world can participate.”

“Commencement is such a meaningful event in a high school student’s life, and we all feel the loss of the traditional way to celebrate this year. This program gives us, as a Commonwealth, the opportunity to mark the achievements of the Class of 2020 and celebrate students as they move on to their next phase in life,” said Education Secretary James Peyser.

## Public Notices

### TOWN OF MONSON LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the MGL Chapter 40A the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 REMOTELY at 7:15 P.M.** for a Special Permit for a Common Access Driveway as provided for by Section 6.21 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws and a request for a waiver to Section 6.21.2.2 in accordance with Section 6.21.6.1 of the Bylaws. The applicant proposes to construct a 725 ft. common driveway to serve the existing house and two new single family homes on separate lots. The property is located at 15 Waid Road, Map 30 and Parcel 12V. The property owner and applicant is John Goodrich II. A copy of the plan is available for viewing by emailing kbaker@monson-ma.gov.

**Zoom Meeting Participation Information:**  
**Login:** <https://zoom.us/j/94432329836?pwd=V11-LYkpUS1ZhYmNkY9TazN-3NOY3UT09>  
**Dial:** 1-646-558-8656  
**Meeting ID:** 944 3232 9836  
**Password:** 551038  
**Craig Sweitzer, Chairman**  
5/28, 6/4/2020

### TOWN OF MONSON LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the MGL Chapter 40A the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 REMOTELY at 7:30 P.M.** for Site Plan Approval as provided by Section 7.4 and a Special Permit application as required in the Water Supply Protection District Section 4.2.6.C.3 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to construct a 9,100 SF retail building and site improvements including new paved parking and driveway, pedestrian sidewalks, stormwater management, site utilities and landscaping. The property is located at 96 Main Street, Map 95 and Parcel 25 in Central Commercial district. The property owner is Daniel Levesque and the applicant is Garrett Homes c/o BL Companies. Copies of the plans are available for viewing by emailing kbaker@monson-ma.gov.

**Zoom Meeting Participation Information:**  
**Login:** <https://zoom.us/j/94432329836?pwd=V11-LYkpUS1ZhYmNkY9TazN-3NOY3UT09>  
**Dial:** 1-646-558-8656  
**Meeting ID:** 944 3232 9836  
**Password:** 551038  
**Craig Sweitzer, Chairman**  
5/28, 6/4/2020

### TOWN OF BRIMFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **June 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM** at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main Street, regarding the town meeting articles regarding proposed zoning by-law changes. The proposed zoning by-law changes will affect the following sections:

Planning Board: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a new Zoning Map entitled, “Zoning Map for the Town of Brimfield, Massachusetts,” dated June 1, 2020, with the

drawing number 09318.

ZBA: To see if the Town will vote for the following article amending the Zoning Bylaw Section 4 by adding the following section 4.3 Estate Lots;

#### ESTATE LOTS

The purpose of this regulation is to allow for the creation of lots for single-dwelling units only, with less than the required frontage, in exchange for increased square footage, for the purposes of preservation of open space and decreasing density in given areas.

Single-family dwellings on estate lots shall be permitted in the residential and agricultural districts. 1. Estate lots shall be created from one conforming lot in existence at the time of adoption of the by-law and which conforms to all provisions of the zoning by-law. No more than three (3) estate lots may be created from an existing lot which was in existence at the time of the adoption of this estate lot by-law amendment and which conforms to all the provisions of the zoning by-law. 2. A filing fee in the amount of \$150 per lot, plus all legal notification fees will be paid by the applicant to the Town of Brimfield. 3. The estate lot(s) shall have a minimum street frontage of not less than forty (40) feet and an access width of not less than forty (40) feet from the front line to the principal structure. The host lot shall meet all the zoning dimensional requirements normally required in the district. 4. No more than three (3) estate lots, and the host lot, may be adjacent to each other at the street line. 5. The area of an estate lot shall be at least five (5) acres including the access strip. 6. Front, rear and side yards must equal or exceed those normally required in the district. 7. Estate lots shall only be allowed in Residential and Agricultural Residential Districts. 8. The grade length and location of access driveways shall be constructed and maintained to provide access. A) width of at least fifteen (15) feet with drainage and culverts where necessary; B) No parking areas or structures shall be allowed in the access strip. 9. There shall be maintained or kept a naturally occurring or a planted vegetated buffer zone of no less than five feet, between any estate lot(s) and any front lot sufficient to provide privacy between the two lots. 10. Plans submitted shall include the statement, “Lot(s) is in estate lot; building is permitted only in accordance with the Brimfield Zoning By-laws.

By Petition: To amend Section 1.2 as it pertains to the Business District to add the following (prior to; as laid out by the Commonwealth of MA) and inserting: “An additional exception, adding specific parcels to the Business District exclusively for the construction of a Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Installation (as allowed under the terms and definitions of Section 7A of these by-laws) on the following parcel 9-B-1 on Dunhamtown-Palmer Road,

as shown on the Assessors Maps for the Town of Brimfield.”

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote for the following article to modify Section 7.2 of the Brimfield Zoning Bylaw by adding the following language: “Unless able to demonstrate substantial hardship or need, any new non-residential structure or use within 300’ of the property line of an existing residential use, must limit ingress and egress to route 20”.

For the complete narrative of this proposed changes please visit <http://www.brimfieldma.org> under “town news”, visit the Town Hall Annex at 23 Main Street or contact the Planning Board at [planning@brimfieldma.org](mailto:planning@brimfieldma.org). 6/04, 6/11/2020

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street

### Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD20P0783EA**

#### Estate of:

**Marlene J Roche**

**Also known as:**

**Marlene Joy Roche**

**Date of Death: 02/10/2020**

#### CITATION ON

#### PETITION FOR

#### FORMAL

#### ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kristin S. Roche** of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kristin S. Roche** of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **06/17/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

#### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to

notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 20, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate

6/04/2020

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0748EA  
Estate of: Floyd G. Volk  
Also Known As:  
Floyd Gordon Volk  
Date of Death:  
April 5, 2020  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interest-

ed in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Todd M. Volk** of Longmeadow, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Todd M. Volk** of Longmeadow, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of

Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

6/04/2020

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

### Know Risk Tolerance at Different Stages of Life

As an investor, you’ll always need to deal with risk of some kind. But how can you manage the risk that’s been made clear by the recent volatility in the financial markets? The answer to this question may depend on where you are in life.

Let’s look at some different life stages and how you might deal with risk at each of them:

*When you’re first starting out ...* If you’re early in your career, with perhaps four or even five decades to go until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you’ll be taking on a higher level of risk, as risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Consequently, your risk tolerance may be relatively high. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

*When you’re in the middle stages ...* At this time of your life, you’re well along in your career, and you’re probably working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and possibly for your children’s college education. So, you still need to be investing for growth, which means you’ll likely need to maintain a relatively high risk tolerance. Nonetheless, it’s a good idea to have some balance in your portfolio, so you’ll want to consider a mix of investments that align with each of your goals.

*When you’re a few years from retirement ...* Now, you might have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your kids have finished college and you’ve paid off your mortgage. This may mean you have more money available to put away for retirement, but you’ll still have to think carefully about how much risk you’re willing to take. Since you’re going to retire soon, you might consider rebalancing your portfolio to include some more conservative investments, whose value is less susceptible to financial market fluctuations. The reason? In just a few years, when you’re retired, you will need to start taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio – essentially, you’ll be selling investments, so, as much as possible, you’ll want to avoid selling them when their price is down. Nonetheless, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn’t fully protect against a loss. However, you can further reduce the future risk of being overly dependent on selling variable investments by devoting a certain percentage of your portfolio to cash and cash equivalents and designating this portion to be used for your daily expenses during the years immediately preceding, and possibly spilling into, your retirement.

*When you’re retired ...* Once you’re retired, you might think you should take no risks at all. But you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. Establishing a withdrawal rate – the amount you take out each year from your investments – that’s appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there’s an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to lower your withdrawal rate temporarily.

As you can see, your tolerance for risk, and your methods of dealing with it, can change over time. By being aware of this progression, you can make better-informed investment decisions.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*



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## Career center director Scott Dranka receives Delight E. Champagne Alumni Service Award

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Career Center Director Scott Dranka has been named the 2020 recipient of the Delight E. Champagne Alumni Service Award. As the Career Center director since January 2017, Dranka has provided effective supervision, leadership, and mentorship in order to best meet the needs of all constituents, including students, alumni, parents, employers, faculty, and staff.

"I am truly honored, grateful, and full of admiration for having been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Delight E. Champagne Alumni Service Award," said Dranka. "Twenty years ago as a student in the Student Personnel Administration master's degree program, led by Dr. Delight E. Champagne, I knew that Springfield College was a special place with outstanding leaders. It took me less than one week of classes to see how students, staff, and faculty embodied and embraced the core values of the mission and Humanities philosophy in their daily work."

Dranka added, "Delight continuously told us to lead and serve others and the results would be monumental for all. And, to this day as an employee I feel the same way. Being surrounded by colleagues, students, and visionary leaders doing their best also inspires me to continuously work hard and dedicate my time and energy to best serve our students and one another at this great institution."

The Delight E. Champagne Alumni Service Award is presented annually in recognition of Champagne, PhD, who served students at Springfield College as a tenured professor of psychology

and the director of the Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education Program at Springfield College for almost 30 years. Her holistic and Humanities approach to teaching and her commitment to the mentorship and encouragement of young student affairs professionals have defined her legacy and career.

Dranka started his career at Springfield College in 2001, first working as coordinator of registration and records services in the Office of the Registrar. He next moved into serving as the assistant director of the Career Center from 2004 through 2016, and working as the associate director of employer outreach and engaged learning for the career center from September of 2016 through November of 2017.

"I would like to sincerely thank Patrick Love, Vice President for Student Affairs, for his leadership of our division and for affording me the opportunity to serve on a variety of divisional and college leadership initiatives and committees," said Dranka. "I also would like to thank Patrick for his support and for presenting me with additional leadership endeavors in order to further expand my abilities as a leader."

Along with his director and assistant director responsibilities in the career center throughout the years, Dranka also was instrumental in leading the Internship Preparation Seminar, which included instructing a course designed to prepare sophomores, juniors, and seniors with formulating career-related materials needed to apply and plan for internships.

"Scott is guided by the mission of Springfield College in all of his work with students and colleagues on campus,



as well as in his connections off campus," said Springfield College Dean of Students Sue Nowlan. "He believes in the education of the whole student and exhibits his commitment to students' growth and development every day in the individual work he does with students, as well as in the program planning and career preparation initiatives he leads for the Career Center."

Dranka was also instrumental in leading the Careers in Student Affairs Drive-In Conference on the Springfield College campus in October 2019, an event that featured more than 14 colleges from throughout the country, and focused on prospective students interested in pursuing careers and master's degrees in student affairs, current graduate students enrolled in student affairs master's degree programs, and rising professionals in the student affairs profession. As part of the conference, keynote speaker Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Stu-

dent Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, presented on "Seven Trends for the Future of Student Affairs."

"This event is just one example of the go-to person Scott has become within the Division of Student Affairs and the college as a whole," added Nowlan. "His willingness to accept any new challenge and to complete it with unmatched dedication and impeccable detail is one of the most wonderful things about working with him."

"The most significant characteristic that Scott shows is his complete dedication to students, to the college community, and to the welfare of all who have the privilege of meeting with him," said Champagne. "His warm and encouraging smile is always there to greet you. He searches for ways to help others or to solve problems on a personal or organizational level. With so many uncertainties facing students and the college at this extraordinary time, I can think of no one who is better suited to guide students through what may be the most challenging economic environment we will ever face."

As Dranka officially received his award, he summarized why this honor is so special to himself and the College.

"I truly feel that the focus and conviction of the Delight E. Champagne Service Award is to continuously uphold our mission and Humanities philosophy daily while ensuring that we proudly identify ways to further support, enhance, and grow Springfield College in our positive trajectory forward while ensuring that the needs of all of our constituents are met," concluded Dranka.

## STCC plans mix of on-campus low-density labs and online courses for fall

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College this fall will offer a combination of on-campus low-density labs using social distancing protocols as well as online instruction.

Dr. Geraldine de Berly, Vice President of Academic Affairs, outlined summer and fall semester instruction plans in an email shared with the campus community today.

Instruction plans were made in light of the Commonwealth's four-phased approach to reopening the Massachusetts economy.

Dr. John B. Cook, STCC President, said students will continue to receive a high-quality educational experience from the most affordable college in the city.

"Our efforts to adapt given the COVID-19 pandemic have been comprehensive," Cook said. "I am confident this plan offers the best set of options for our students; the decisions we made were difficult, but thoughtful, and were driven by the health and well-being of STCC students, faculty and staff."

STCC, the only technical community college in Massachusetts, offers upwards of 90 programs, many of which are unique to the region. In addition, students avoid student loan debt, and find opportunity and more in STCC's multiple bachelor's degree transfer options. The college is known for its state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, as well as a nationally recognized patient simulation facility used by students in its acclaimed health programs.

"STCC has no intention of becoming a fully online institution. The pivot to online is driven by a health pandemic," de Berly said. "COVID-19 has forced the college to adjust, and we do hope in the future to return to the robust utilization of campus facilities which include our labs, specialized equipment, unique technologies and the rewarding in-person experiences STCC faculty generate with and for students."

STCC will offer fully online Summer Session classes, which begin today. Some online classes may include virtual meetings between instructors and students while the remainder will be "asynchronous" - not delivered in real time, an approach that affords flexibility.

Some programs in the School of Health and Patient Simulation (SHPS) will include low-density, on-campus labs that could begin as soon as June 8 as part of a Phase 2 pilot, and will include necessary social distancing, personal protective equipment and sanitizing protocols.

For the fall semester, SHPS will deliver courses and programs using a combination of low-density instruction and online, with gathering size set in accordance with state and federal social distancing guidelines. Programs in the school include nursing, dental, respiratory, medical imaging, rehabilitation studies and medical laboratory technician.

The School of STEM will offer courses that include online, online with video conferencing in real time, and on-campus low-density labs. Programs in the School of STEM include fields of study such as engineering transfer, computer and IT security, mechanical engineering technology, energy systems, optics and photonics, electrical engineering technology/robotics, architecture building technology, graphic design, and digital media.

All courses in the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LAPS) will be taught online. Administrators decided to convert all classes in LAPS to online as a response to the need to limit campus density and population. Many of the classes in the School of LAPS are lecture-oriented, which lead to the decision to go fully online, Vice President de Berly said. Two-year programs include business transfer, criminal justice, early childhood education, urban studies, applied psychology, social work and more.

In certain instances, STCC will use "synchronous" teaching strategies, which means students gather with their instructor at a specific date and time through video conferencing. But most of the classes will be taught using an asynchronous approach, which gives students greater flexibility to set their own hours to complete their studies and assignments.

"Many of our students have childcare obligations, work commitments, and a host of other complicated circumstances," Cook said. "We know that our students benefit from having flexibility in their coursework, and online is yet another way STCC lives its mission of ensuring access to higher education."

Cook said he was impressed with the way the faculty transitioned during the spring semester when the COVID-19 emergency forced the college to make sudden adjustments.

STCC offers professional development resources for faculty, including support and training through the Center for Online and Digital Learning.

"I applaud our faculty for their resiliency over the past several months," Cook said. "They showed tremendous dedication and commitment to our students, and were resolved during an unprecedented time in our history as an institution. I truly appreciate their efforts to help students transform their lives."



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